

ARTILLERY HELL

Report on the
US Army's M198
towed howitzer

Model MILITARY INTERNATIONAL

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DOG ONE IS OPEN

Matt Wellhouser brings Jaguar's 200mm
figure of Captain Miller to life

KV-1 'BEUTE PANZER'

In our comprehensive tech guide,
Fraser Gray builds the Trumpeter kit



WADI WARRIOR

Pete Usher describes his Warrior build in
the first of this two part diorama feature

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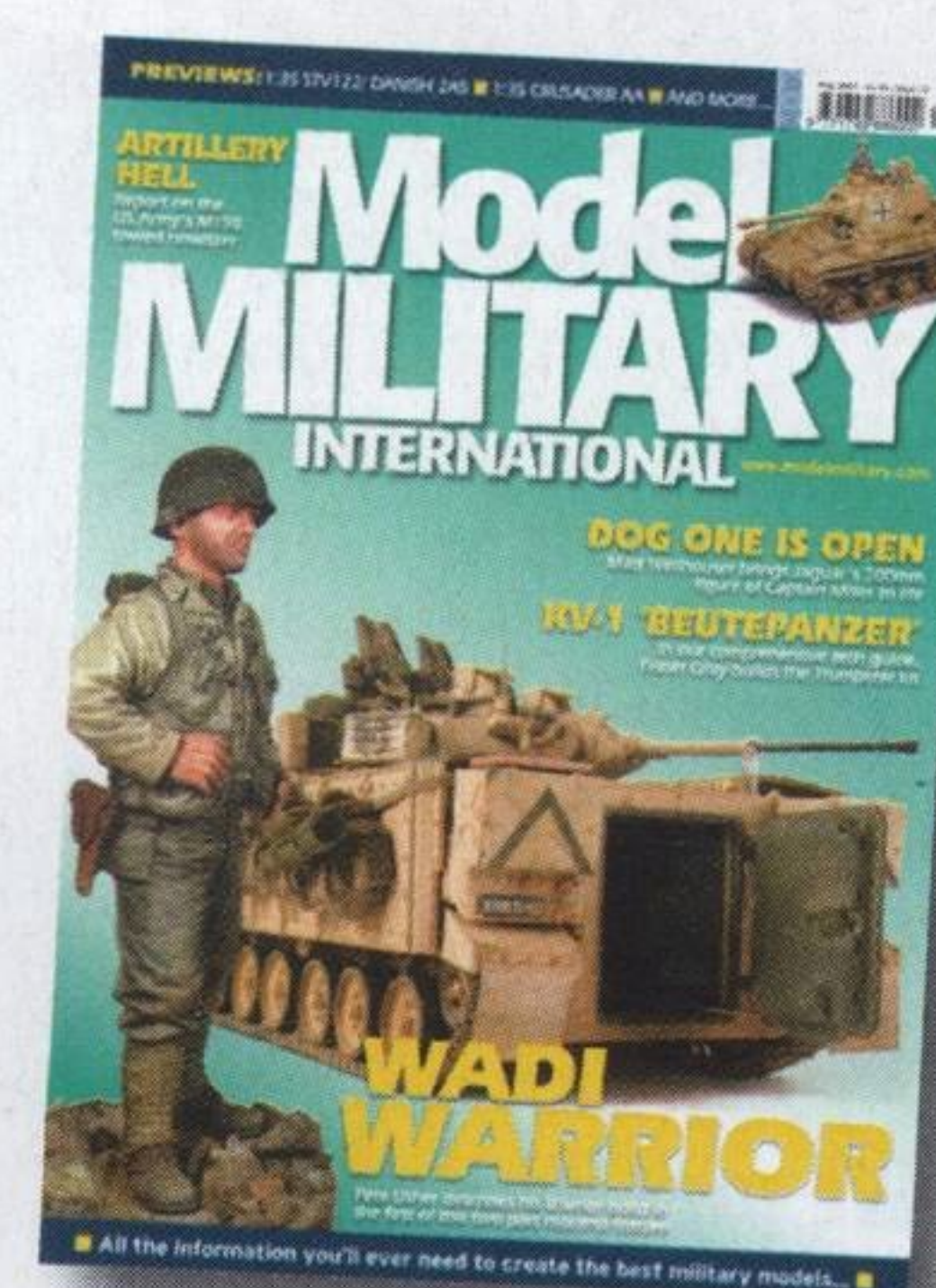
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Diary Dates...

May 12th

Southdowns Model Show.
Lancing Parish Hall, Lancing,
West Sussex.
More room this year with clubs
and traders in attendance.
Early booking advisable to
avoid disappointment!
Paul Janicki: 01403 782638
or Craig Wells: 01273 279635

May 26th

IPMS Torbay.
Torquay Town Hall Devon.
Traders, clubs and
competitions.
Contact: Les wells at
wellzy2002@yahoo.com

May 26/27th

Concours International de
Maquettes, Musee des Blindes,
Saumur, France.
www.musee-des-blindes.asso.fr

June 9-11th

AUSTRALIA, MODEL EXPO 2007
Melbourne, Australia.
Model Expo 2007 and the
Australian Open Plastic
and Scale Modelling
Championships.
The Entertainment Centre,
Sandown Racecourse,
Princes Highway, Springvale,
Melbourne, Victoria.
Contact: Model Expo, c/o IPMS
Australia Inc., GPO Box 1187,
Melbourne Vic 3001 Australia,
Graeme Dodd: (03) 9808 0341
Ian Vale: (03) 9873 4256
IanVale@bigpond.com

June 17th

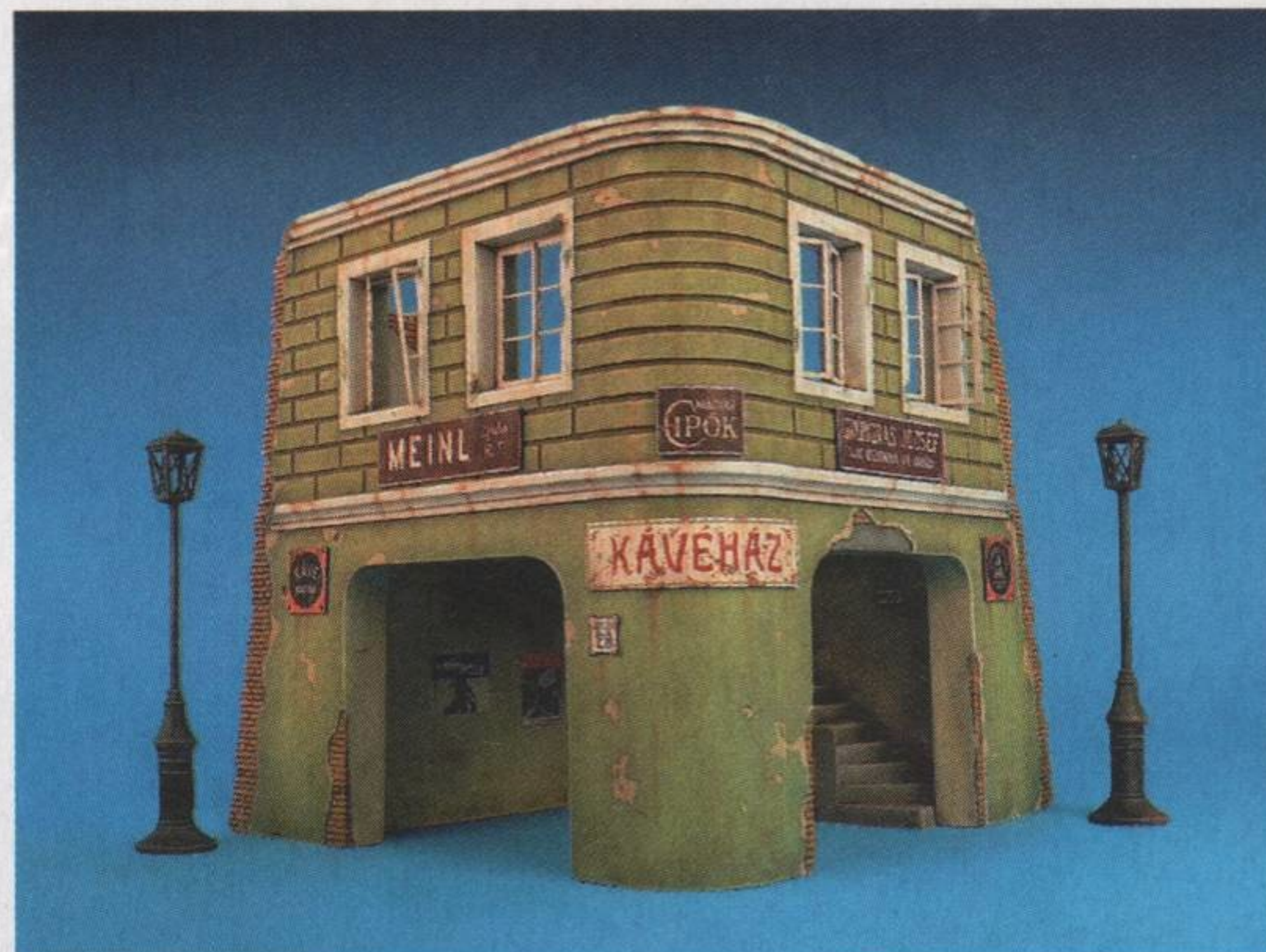
MAFVA Nationals, IWM
Duxford, in conjunction with
the Military Vehicle Show.
www.mafva.org.uk

July 18-22nd

War & Peace Show,
Beltring, Kent. www.
thewarandpeaceshow.uk.com

August 18th

'PRESENT ARMS' 2007
MAFVA Essex Branch is
staging 'Present Arms' 2007.
The Sports Hall of Marshalls
Park School, Pettits Lane,
Romford, Essex, RM1-4EH.
Military modelling, Wargaming,
Figures and appearances
by actual military vehicles
(weather permitting).
Admission: Adults £2.50,
Concessions £1.50.
Doors open from 10am-5pm.
Contact:
Bob Sinfield:
mafva_essex@yahoo.co.uk
www.mafvaessex.co.uk



NEW IMPORTERS

Good news for modellers in the UK, Creative models Ltd., who import such goodies as Vallejo, Mig Productions and HobbyBoss, are now adding MiniArt and MasterBox to the range of products they import and distribute. For more information please go to www.creativemodels.co.uk

TASCA STOCKIST'S



SBX Models have just dropped us a line to say they have stocks of the excellent Tasca Firefly. At the time of our preview in Issue 11 we had no details of a UK stockist. SBX are also expecting stocks of Lion Marc products, including updates for the Tasca Firefly, Bronco Comet and the AFV Club Centurion Mk5/1.

LM10010	1:35	77mm Barrel for Comet	£6.50
LM33000	1:35	Comet Mantlet w/ Canvas Cover (WW2)	£6.50
LM33001	1:35	Centurion RAAC Turret w/ Canvas	£12.99
LM50000	1:35	MG34 Barrel (Late) Tank Variant	£6.99
LM50001	1:35	17 Pounder Barrel for Tasca Firefly	£6.50

www.sbxmodelshop.co.uk

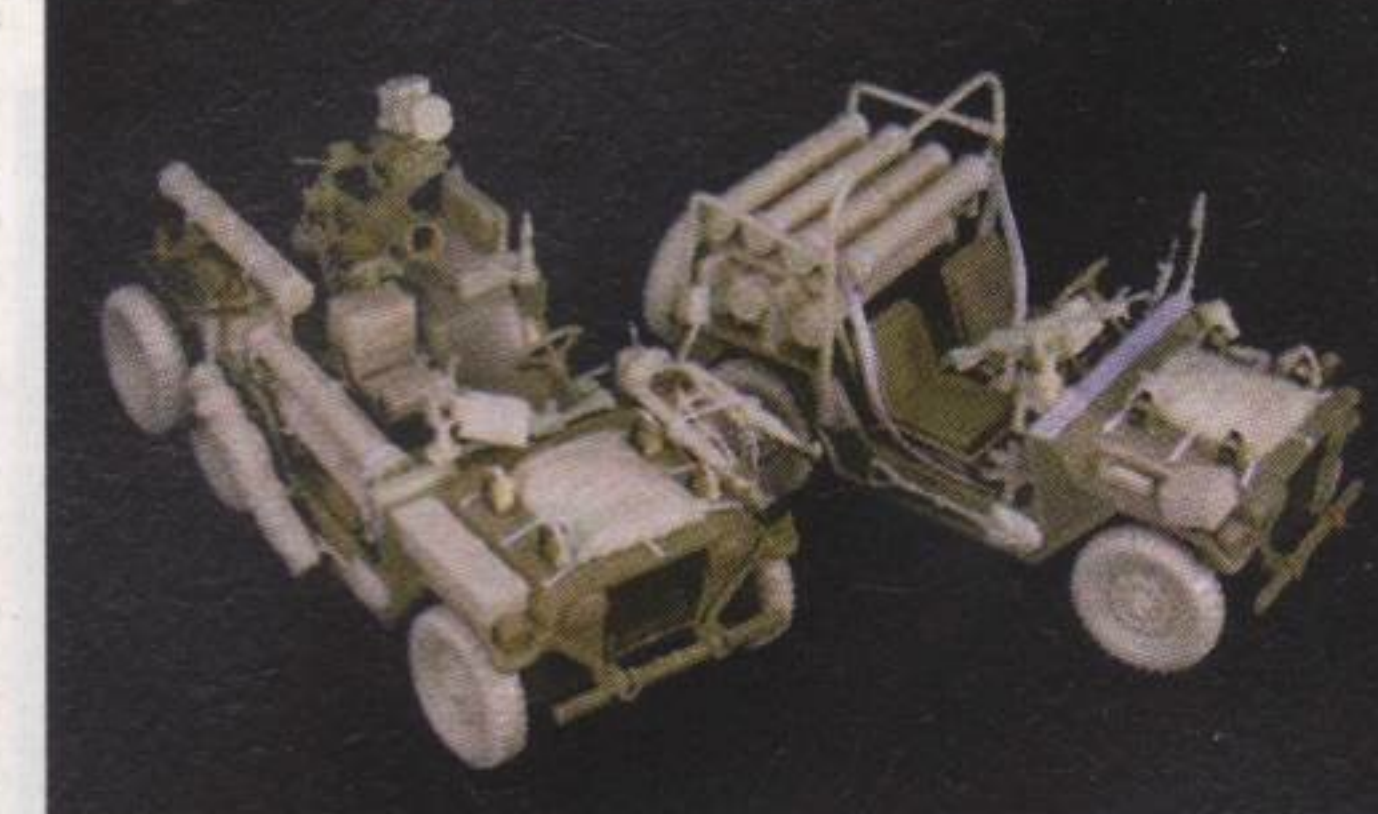


CITADEL FOUNDATION COLOURS

The guys at Games Workshop have announced a new range of colours, which have been specifically formulated for an excellent single coat coverage over black or white undercoats.

Although designed with their range of fantasy figures in mind, most of these colours are absolutely perfect for military modelling. I for one have been an avid user of the Citadel range for a long time.

The range will be released as box sets on the 21st April and will be available individually from the 2nd June. (Ed)



MUTT-TASTIC

Just announced from Legends are these two comprehensive conversions for the Tamiya/Academy Mutt Jeep. Both are designed to convert the Jeep into IDF service. The first is the TOW armed variant and the second is the carrier version. Personally, I think the TOW armed Mutt looks awesome, and I'm sure will prove very popular with IDF modellers.

Available from:

www.friendshipmodels.com
LF1142 - IDF M151A2 OREV (Late)
Conversion set (For Tamiya/
Academy M151A2 TOW Mutt)
LF1141 - IDF M151A2 OREV Carrier
(Late) Conversion set (For Tamiya/
Academy M151A2 Mutt)



SNOW CLONES

Paul Egerton casts an eye over these two cool looking versions of the Leopard 2A5.

Both of these kits are fundamentally Leopard 2 A5s but modified to satisfy National requirements and as such, I thought I would run the reviews together. I don't know very much about Hobby Boss, but looking at the packaging, descriptions, instructions and the colour illustration sheets, it is all very reminiscent of Trumpeter.

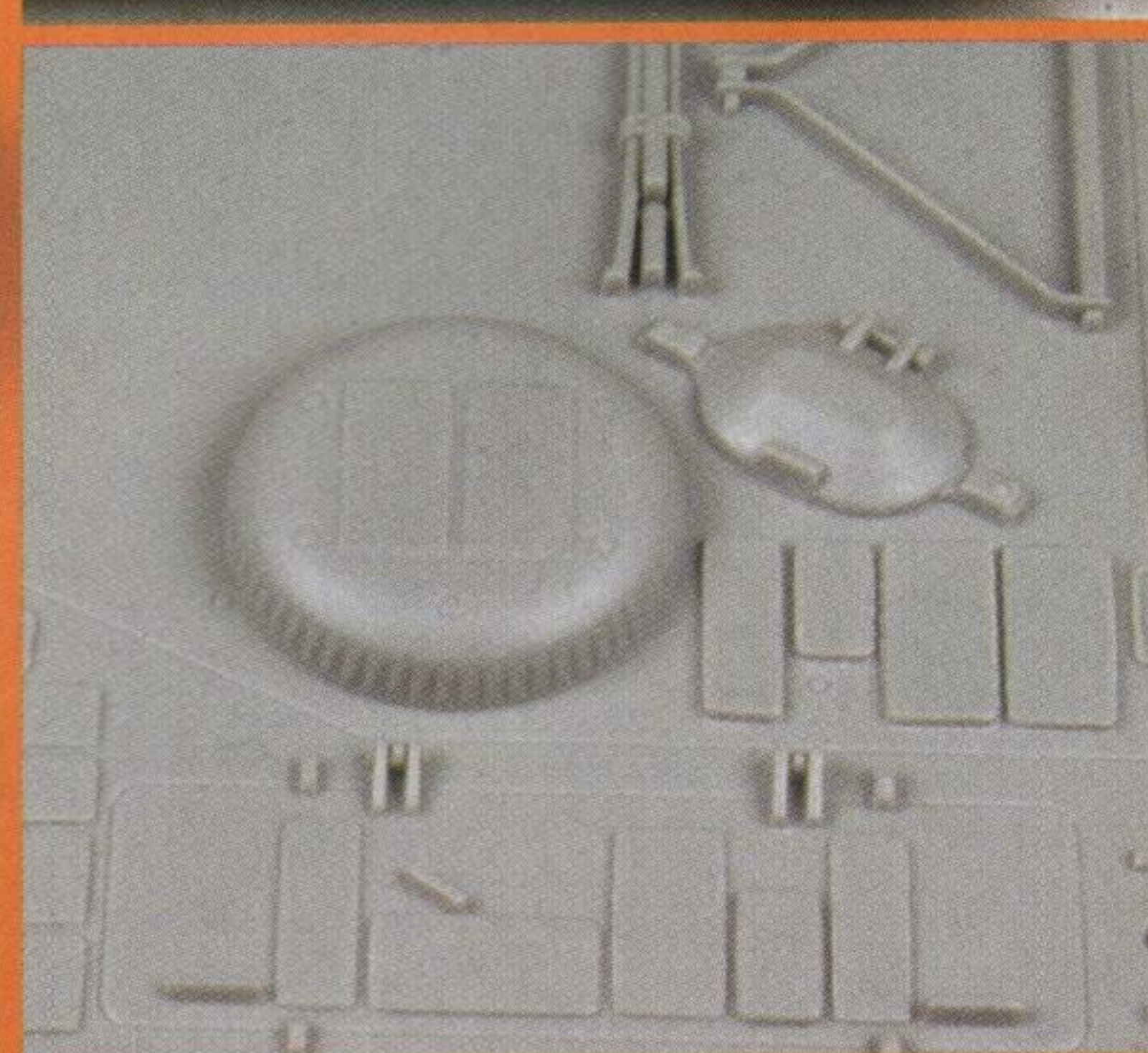
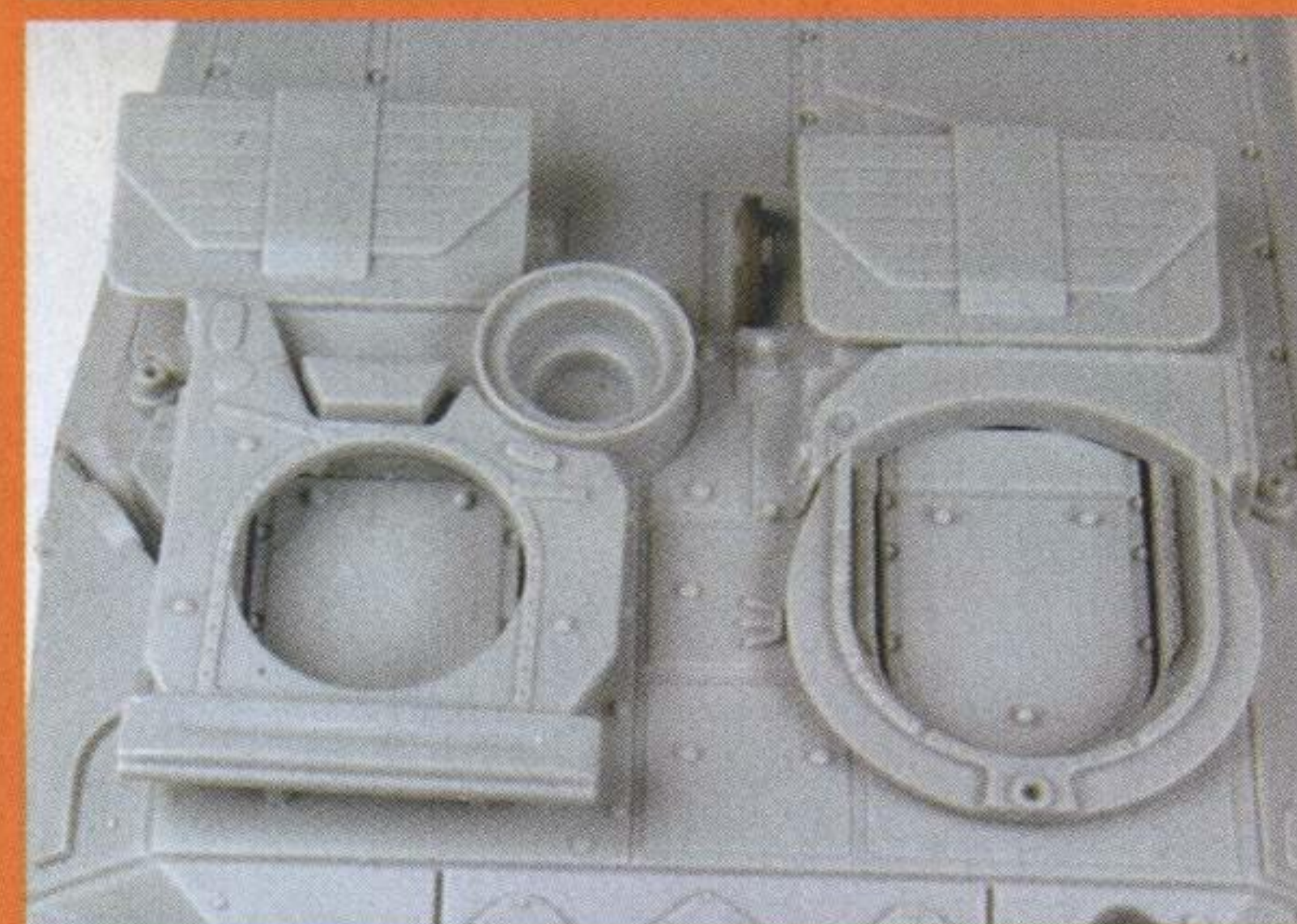
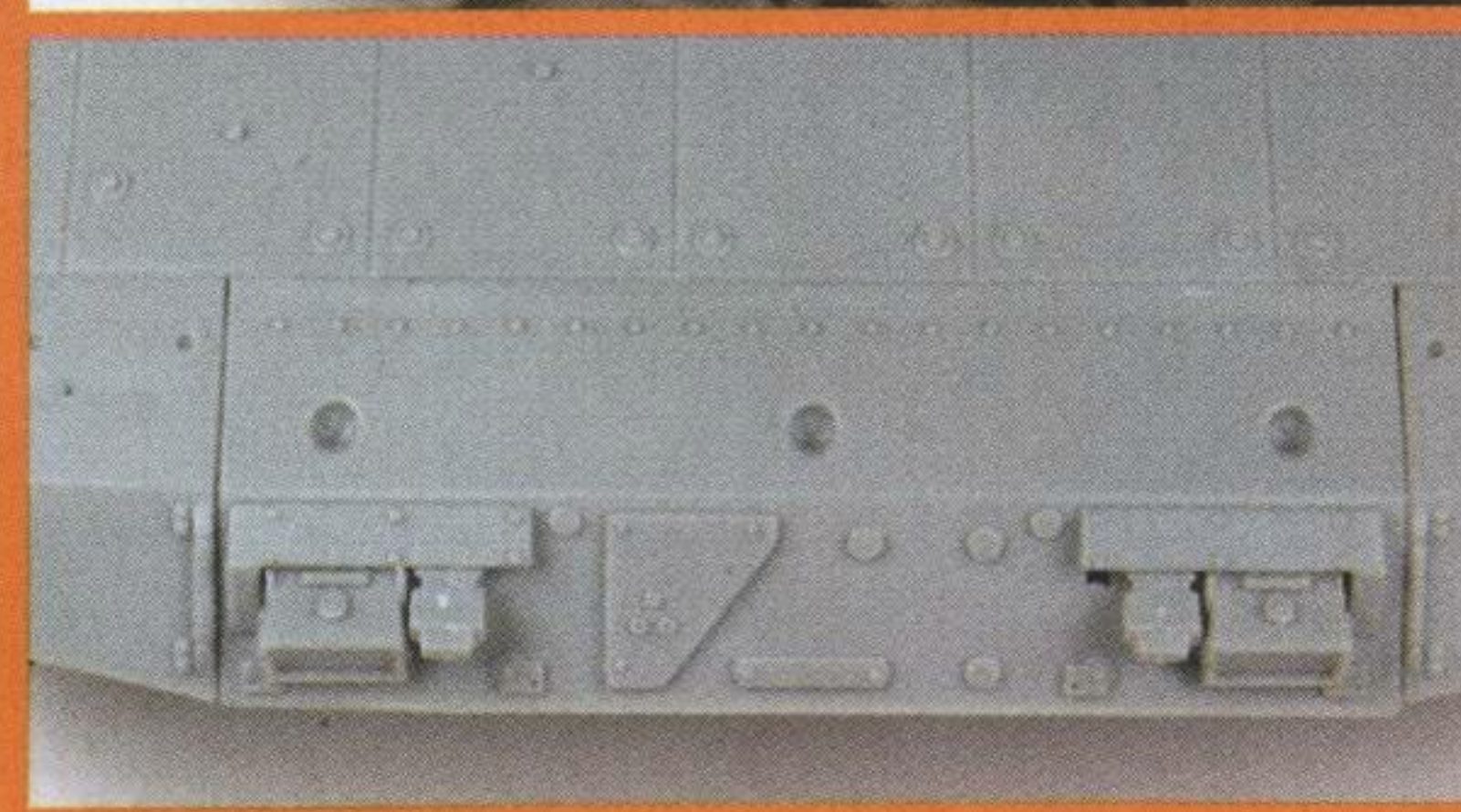
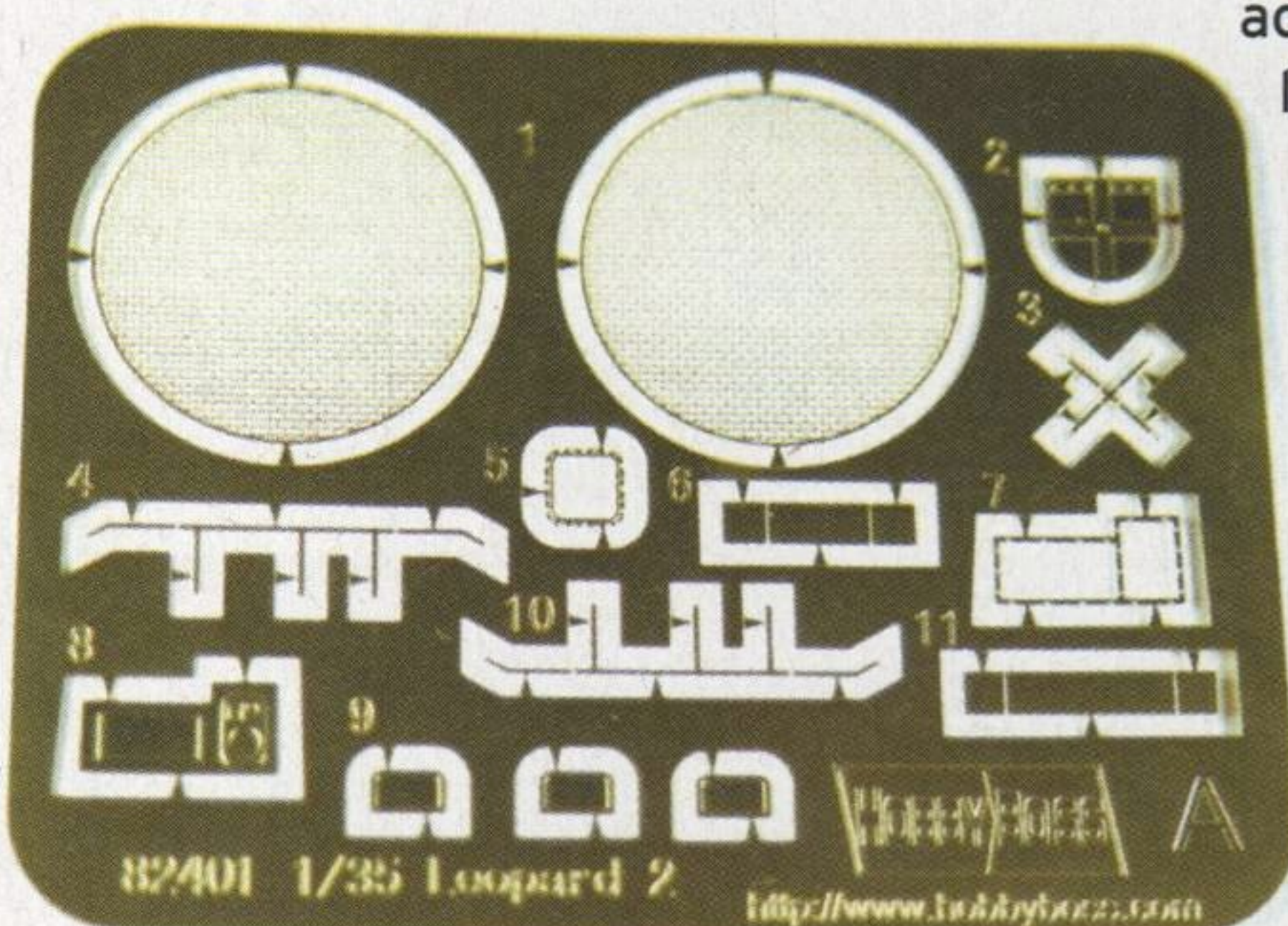
The Danish version comprises 308 plastic parts, 12 pieces of etch brass and tracks of the 'rubber band' variety but made from a material that can be glued. The etch parts comprise grilles, brush guards and finer alternatives to some of the plastic parts all of which are crisply moulded, flash free and sharply detailed. A slight weakness in the kit is the provision of part cut acetate sheet for vision blocks, lenses etc., but I'm sure that aftermarket replacements are available. A small decal sheet rounds off the package.

The same description applies to the Swedish version as it is the same kit but with a couple of different parts in the turret area. The box description details 406 pieces but I suspect that

this is an error and they mean 306

- I haven't counted them all but have compared sprues and they are fundamentally the same.

These are two excellent models of the Leopard 2 and represent good value for money. However, they are uncannily like the Tamiya offering and I wonder about their genesis. Could we have Tamiya to Hobby Boss via Trumpeter and if so, is it all legit? From a purely mercenary point of view, we modellers have two very high quality models at bargain basement prices relatively speaking - your conscience (informed by your wallet!!) will determine whether you buy them or not. ■



One half of the Tamiya barrel mated with the Hobby Boss part, a perfect fit!



DOG ONE IS OPEN

Matt Wellhouser brings the large and impressive Jaguar 1:9 US Ranger figure to life.



When I first saw this kit, I thought that the sculpting was fantastic and that the size was impressive. It bears a likeness to Tom Hanks' character in the famous movie "Saving Private Ryan". The book from the movie was a great help in this project.

SNAFU

On D-Day, the Rangers had the formidable task of landing at Pointe du Hoc, before the main

landings at Omaha and Utah beaches. The plan was for the Rangers to land by sea, scale the 100 metre cliffs and silence the gun batteries at the top. But, as it turned out, the guns were moved prior to the invasion. A series of SNAFUs (you will have to see the movie to get the translation) led to the 2nd Ranger Battalion taking a very hard hit on D-Day. The Rangers from 2nd Battalion came under heavy attack and because of delays, essentially did not have any

reinforcements. After 2 days of fighting, their initial force of over 225 men was reduced to about 90.

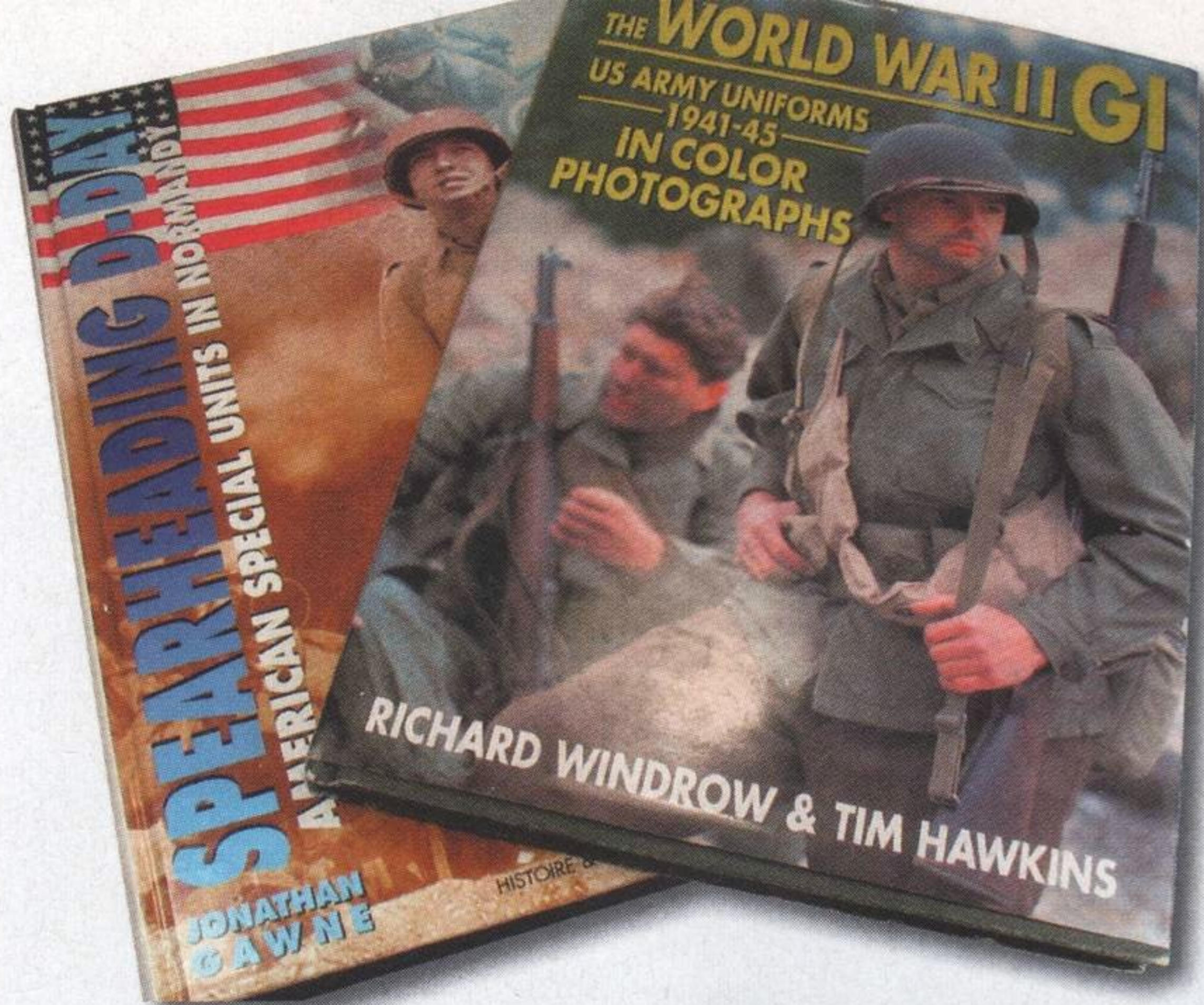
MOTIVATION

After reading about the Ranger's attack on Point du Hoc on June 6, I was motivated to paint this figure. The figure wears the Assault Vest which was a version of the British Assault Jerkin. It is questionable how long the Rangers continued to wear their assault vests after D-Day or even if worn before they

landed. Loaded with grenades, ammo and other items, it weighed more than 60 pounds. A great boat anchor! It also restricted movement, was hot to wear and limited access to equipment worn underneath and on the M1936 cartridge belt. In the movie, Captain Miller, portrayed by Tom Hanks, wore the vest almost the entire time.

SAVING PRIVATE RYAN

Using references, I was able to



Books such as H&C's *Spearheading D-Day* and *WWII GI* uniforms are invaluable when researching projects such as this.

obtain several pictures of authentic vests. They came in about four or more different colours depending on who made them and what batch of fabric was used. The colour variation is not significant unless you are collecting vests. For my purposes, I tried to match shades of colours to those in the movie. The pictures in the "Saving Private Ryan" book (and movie) are not exactly right because they removed about sixty percent of the colour from the negatives. Spielberg wanted a dreary, semi-documentary style to the film. It was important for me to remember that when I mixed colours, they were not exact matches of period equipment, but made to look like Captain Miller's.

COLOUR MATCHING

There are several excellent books on US Uniforms, one in particular is *US Army Uniforms in Colour Photographs*. Unlike German uniforms, US uniforms tend to be more monotone and well, OD Green. Khaki doesn't vary too much, so sometimes you have to be creative to keep everything from looking the same. To add interest and authenticity, I varied the tones of the equipment so that they did not appear to be painted using exactly the same colours.

Using the book from the movie, I tried to depict Captain Miller as he appeared in the mythical village of Ramelle.

The parts of the figure were cleaned up and mounted on sections of brass wire for handling. The face seemed too chubby to me so, I used sandpaper and my hobby knife to slim down portions of the face and neck - model liposuction!

AIRBRUSHING

Now to drive everyone crazy, I painted all of the base colours and some details with an airbrush. Yep, an airbrush - Iwata HP-C. The reasons were several, including, speed, ease of laying in basic highlights and shadows and the ability to use Tamiya acrylic, which does not brush that well; I can obtain great coverage and subtle shading by spraying them. The key is to thin the paint quite a bit - 75% thinner to 25% paint. Another tip is to paint from the inside out - under clothing, then outer layers. It is just easier that way. It is OK to cheat and use a product like Tamiya tape to help mask areas when painting.

PRIMING

I start by priming the figure. In this case I used Tamiya White Primer out of a spray can. Then, I mixed the base colour for the combat jacket. This was done using Tamiya Khaki. I lightened it with Tamiya Buff with a little Flat White mixed in. I then took the base colour and darkened it with Flat Black with a little brown mixed in. For highlights, spray from the top of the figure (like a rainstorm) and from the bottom for shadows. Once the overall coverage is done, go in and work on the detail areas. With the paint thinned, lower pressure and using a fine tipped airbrush like the Iwata, you can actually paint some of the highlights and shadows directly.

VEST AND PANTS

The same procedure was used for the Assault Vest and the Trousers. Other details (Leggings, Helmet, Canteen, etc.) were also painted in this manner.



The author, first base coats the entire figure with Tamiya's excellent white primer before airbrushing the basic colours and tones using Tamiya acrylics.



COLOUR CHARTS

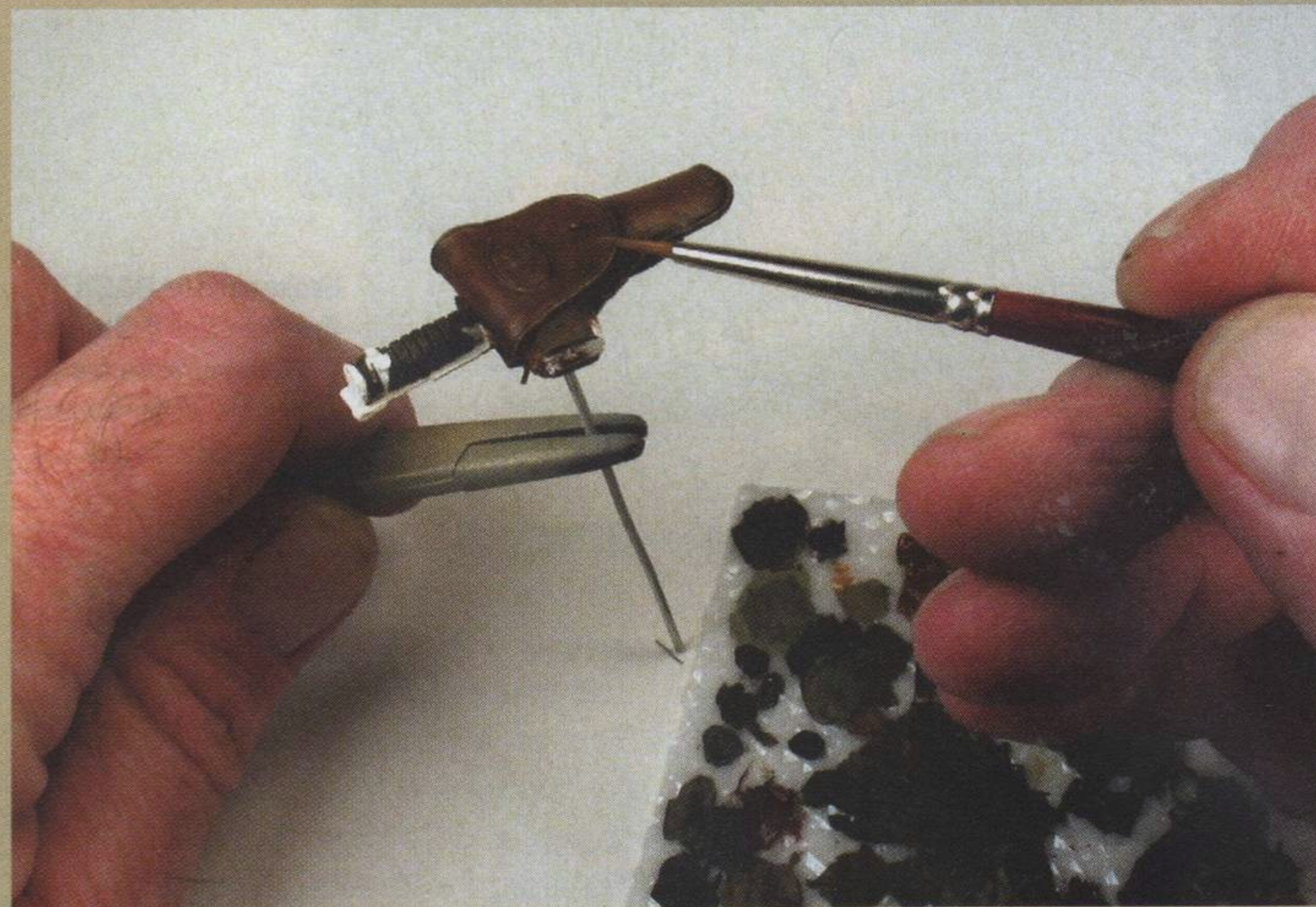
A useful tip is to apply a small amount of each colour onto a piece of card and make a note for future reference. Often the colours look slightly different when dry, doing this also makes direct comparisons much easier, when it comes to selecting the correct tone, hues and shades. Spending some time doing this will afford a far more true to life colour chart, than any supplied by the manufacturers printed charts.

COLOUR WHEELS

When experimenting mixing colours, a well worth investment would be a colour wheel, these are available from art shops. This will not only explain how to mix basic colours but show which colours compliment and warm or cool every shade.

Tech Tip! - Painting wood

Coat the portion of the model with flat white or buff coloured paint. Use artists' oil colours with a stiff brush on top of the base colour. Because of the translucent nature of the oils and the bristles in the brush, wood grain can be created. Once you try this, it is very easy to experiment with different brushes for various wood effects. You can add to this once dry or accentuate worn areas of wood with lighter colours such as raw sienna and Naples yellow. If an item had a wood handle with a painted surface such as the entrenching tool, use acrylics over the oil and then gently scrape the acrylic off to reveal the "wood" finish underneath. Use a toothpick or piece of plastic to do this.



To add highlights and shadows to the various pieces of equipment, the author uses Vallejo Model Color acrylics. As can be seen in the accompanying photos the parts are attached to lengths of brass to ease handling. Even when working with acrylic, when thinned correctly they offer a decent working time.



Due to the large scale of the figure, even minor items of equipment can be treated as models in their own right, such as the canteen and entrenching tool.

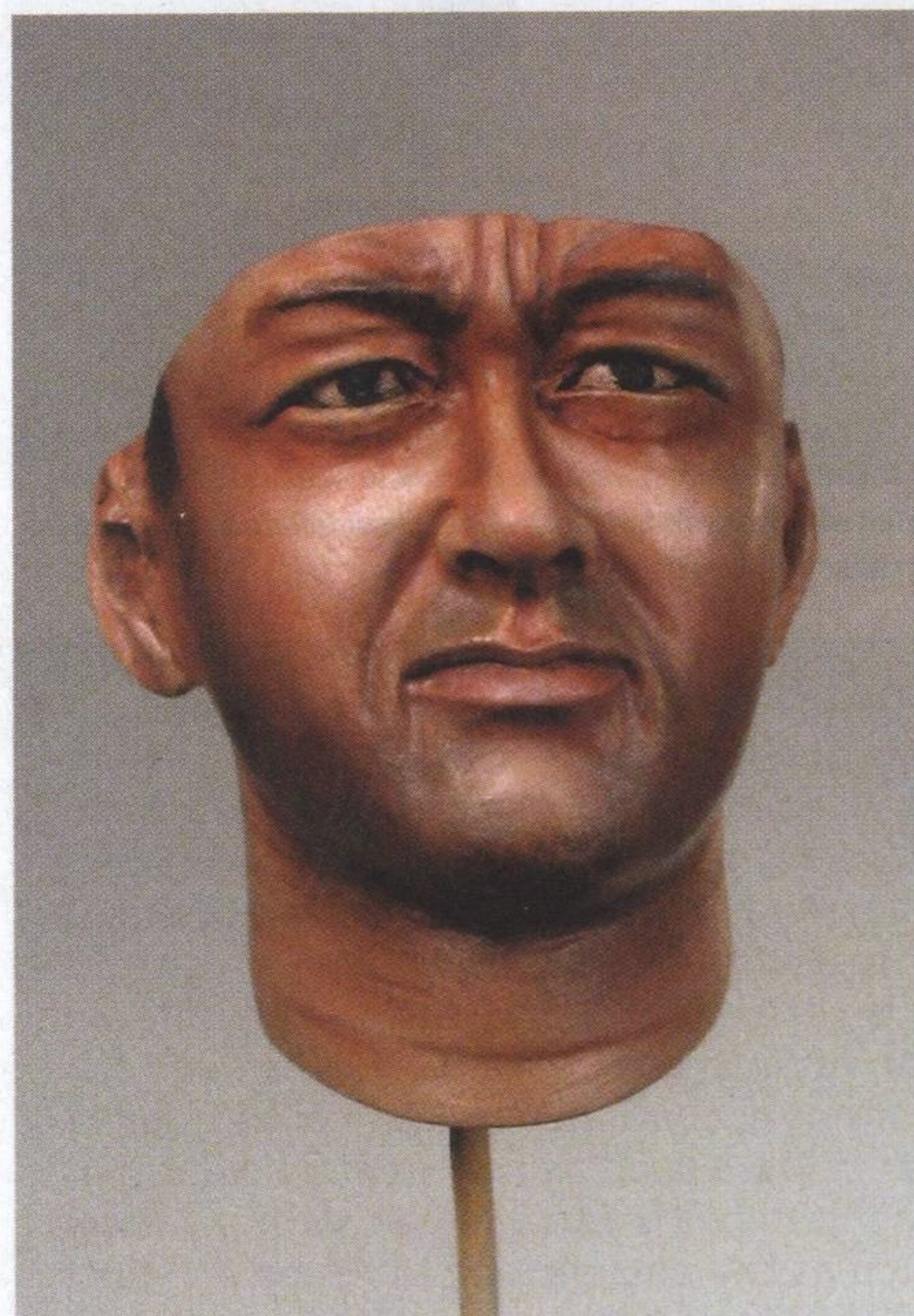
Once dry, I use Vallejo Model Colors to refine the highlights, shadows and details. I applied this paint with a sable brush. The key here is to thin the paint with distilled water and add to the existing shadows and highlights. The paint consistency depends on its purpose, for base coats Vallejo works well diluted 1 part paint to 1 part water, for glazes and shading, dilute the paint 5 parts water to one part paint, for blending adjacent colours, a higher dilution is needed - 10 parts water to one part paint. One thing I learned when using any paint is to thin it with the appropriate thinner and "unload" the brush on a scrap of paper before you touch the model. Since the paint is thin, if you go directly from your palette to the model, you will have a mess of paint running all over the surface.

"Unloading" leaves just enough paint of the proper consistency on the brush and allows you to control the application precisely. My paper "palette" looks like a bunch of paint stripes when I am finished.

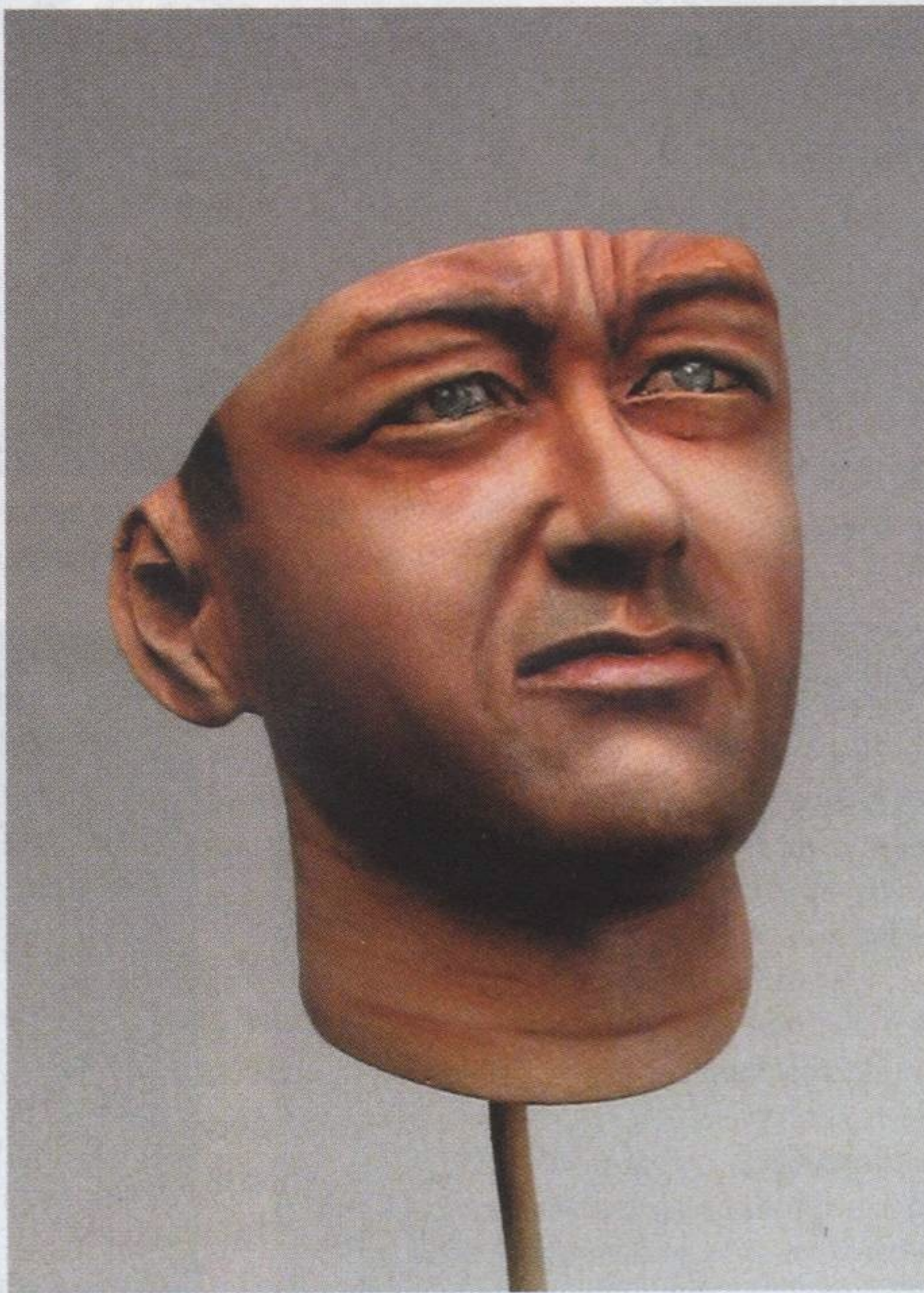
You can apply different dilutions of paint to your model to blend any sharp transitions between the shadows and highlights. Practice is the key. Actually, a larger figure (120mm or bigger) is easier to learn on than a small 54mm or 1:35 scale figure simply because you can see the effect, and have some room to work. I would strongly advise anyone wanting to improve their figure painting skills to paint a larger scale figure or a bust.

SKIN TONES

The face and hands on this figure were brush painted with artists' oils. The oils were applied over



Following a base of Tamiya Flat Flesh XF-15, all successive shading and highlighting was completed using slow drying oil paints, which allow greater flexibility for blending.



Once the author was happy with the basic skin tones, the eyes were painted using acrylics followed by a coat of Future (Johnson) Floor Polish.



The finished head, looking incredibly realistic. Note the glint in the eyes and the exposed metal on the rim of the helmet.



"Spielberg wanted a dreary, semi-documentary style to the film"



a base of Tamiya Flesh - yes, sprayed on. The oils' slow drying properties allow me to correct mistakes and blend colours over a longer period. I painted the eyes with acrylics and coated them with Future Floor Polish to bring them to life.

The boots were also painted with artist oils over an acrylic base and then when dry, I broke out the trusty airbrush and used heavily thinned Tamiya Buff to weather the toes and heels; it gives that scuffed leather effect very nicely.

Using dry pigments diluted with Tamiya thinner to simulate the dirt and grime on the boots, legs, arms and helmet of the figure.

Because of the pose of the figure, the arms would be in the way when it came to painting the details on the torso and belt line. So, they were painted separately and then glued onto the torso with two-part epoxy once the torso and surrounding areas were finished. I usually wait to assemble the

painted parts of the figure as one of the last steps, that way, nothing gets broken from handling and touch ups are minimal.

METALLIC COLOURS

Metal parts of the kit were painted with Humbrol Gun Metal Metalcote. This is great for simulating metal and the various metal fasteners. When dry, it can be buffed with a cotton bud to bring up a metallic sheen. I highlight the metal with gold or silver printers' inks diluted with the clear carrier from Testors metallic enamel paint - any colour will do, just use the clear part of the paint from an unmixed bottle.

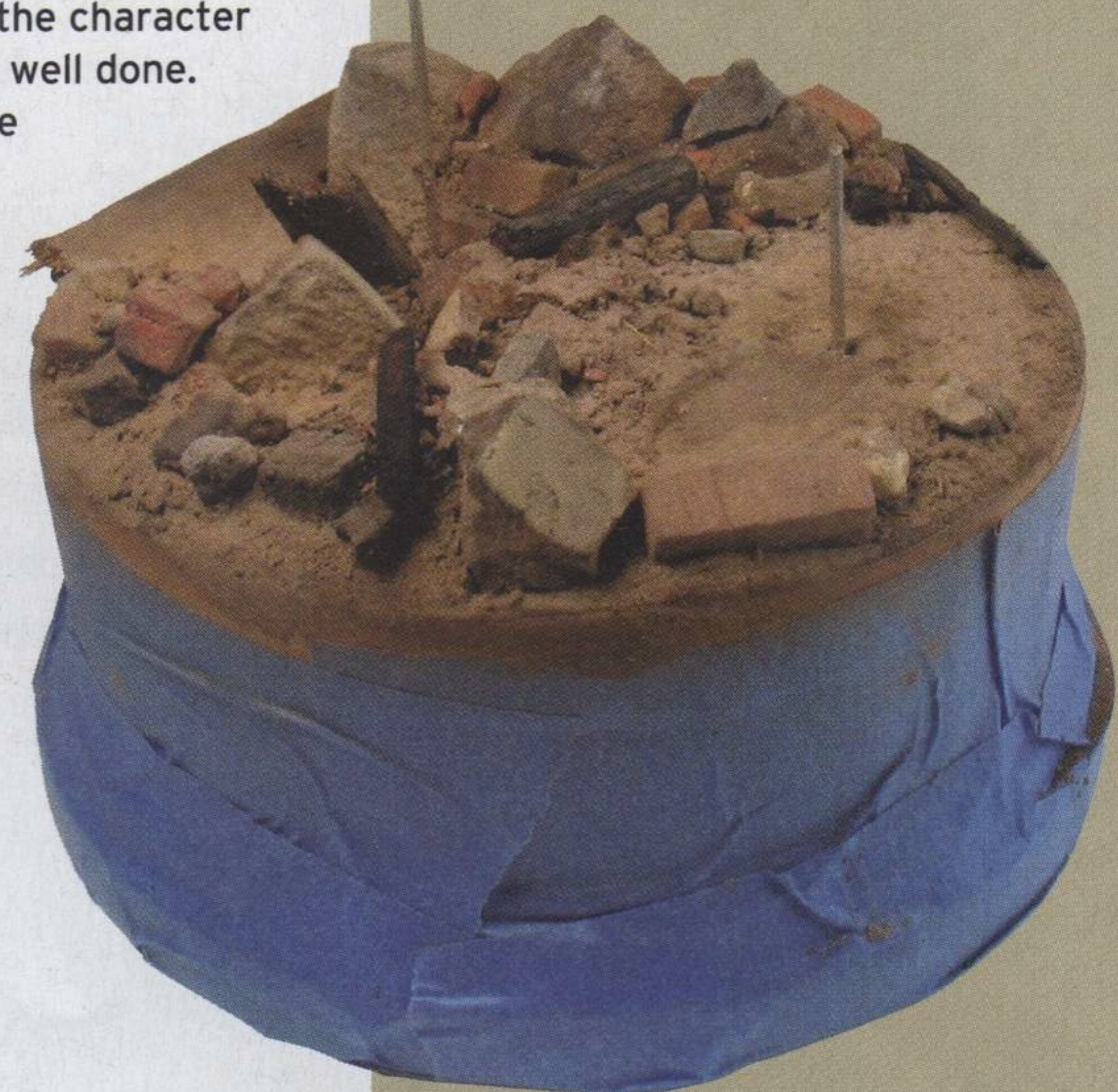
THE BASE

The wood base is from S&T Products and I used Magic Sculp (A&B putty) to form the basic contours. I then pressed various bits of wood, dollhouse bricks and real dirt to simulate the ground cover. It was painted with Vallejo and Tamiya paints.

CONCLUSION

This was an awesome figure to paint. The sculpting is top-notch and the likeness to the character in the movie is very well done. Its large size is quite impressive on display. You can still find this figure at shows and quite possibly from Jaguar Models. ■

The groundwork was built-up using dolls house bricks, real dirt and various bits of wood.



From certain angles the figure does resemble Tom Hanks quite well. The author's painting skills have really brought this large and impressive figure to life.

Modelspec

Jaguar 1:9 (200mm) Ranger sculpted by Ki Gap Park

Paints used

Tamiya - XF-49 Khaki Drab, XF-57 Buff, XF-2 Flat White, XF-62 Olive Drab, XF-51 Khaki Drab, XF-1 Flat Black, X-9 Brown
Humbrol - Metalcote Gunmetal
Vallejo Model Color - Khaki 988, Iraqi Sand 819, Flat Black 950, Flat White, Green Brown 879, German Camouflage Beige 821, Olive Grey 888, Green Grey 886, English Uniform 921, Leather Brown 871, Orange Brown 981

Assault Vest:

Base - Tamiya Khaki Drab
Highlights - Tamiya Buff
Shadows - Tamiya Khaki Drab, Brown and Flat Black
Brushwork - Vallejo Khaki and Iraqi Sand Highlights mixed with Tamiya Khaki Drab with Vallejo Black added for shadows

Combat Jacket:

Tamiya Khaki with White and Flat White highlights, Flat Black Shadows
Brush Colours - Vallejo Khaki and Iraqi Sand highlights, Flat Black added for shadows

Trousers:

Tamiya Olive Drab mixed with Khaki Drab, Buff and white added for highlights, 50/50 black and brown for shadows
Brushwork - same paints thinned with Tamiya Thinner for highlights and shadows.

References:

Saving Private Ryan, the movie, 1998
Saving Private Ryan, the book, Newmarket Press, NY, 1998
The World War Two GI, US Army Uniforms in Colour Photographs, Richard Windrow, Tim Hawkins, Crowood Press 1999
Spearheading D-Day, American Special Units in Normandy, Histoire and Collections, 1998





WADI WARRIOR

In part one of Pete Usher's Warrior diorama, he describes the build of the Academy Warrior with Accurate Armour's interior update set.

The basic kit is much the same as it was when originally released; very good but with an extra sprue which contains mainly stowage and add-ons such as the CIP panels, communication wire reels and ammo boxes. These additions bring the kit right up to date and make it a match for any of the new Dragon releases.

This project was going to be

broken down into five stages, interior, main vehicle, stowage, figures and diorama. Historically, I start off at a rate of knots with the kit, but, towards the end of the main build, the thought of painting a lot of stowage and figures does not fill me with the same enthusiasm (particularly as there is probably another kit that I am itching to start) even though this is what makes a kit come to

life. So, I changed tactics and made and painted the figures, stowage and Bergens first, treating them as small individual kits rather than one project.

INTERIOR

The interior by Accurate Armour is absolutely stunning; the finish is excellent with no air bubbles in the resin. With so much going on I decided to paint everything

first. Looking through Concorde's WARRIOR: British Combat Vehicle Tracked book and the Internet, it became clear that there was no set interior colour. The sides and roof tended to be an off beige colour, for this I sprayed Tamiya XF-57 Matt Buff with a few drops of Tamiya Clear X-22. All other parts received a coat of Tamiya NATO Green XF-57 with 5% XF-59 Desert Yellow added again



with a few drops of Tamiya Clear X-22. Smaller items such as the turret radios and seats could then be detail painted whilst still on the resin sprue. In the centre of the interior is a nylon fuel tank. These were often hand painted by the crew because the sight of the fuel moving around in the tank could cause seasickness!. The resin is a near match for the nylon so some of the green paint has been chipped away. Both the green and the buff received a light wash of Burnt Sepia oil paint followed by a coat of matt varnish once the oils were dry. Mig Productions Gulf PO 37 sand was sparingly brushed into all corners and onto the tread plate floor; the excess was removed with a firm flat brush. With the interior painted, construction can begin. I didn't have any problems at all with the driver's or infantry compartment but I had a small problem when fitting the turret to the main hull as it sat too high. This was easily overcome by reducing the turret footplate support with a sharp knife.

SUSPENSION

For some reason, the few Warrior kits I have seen seem to look very high on their suspension arms. So, with this particular Warrior being as loaded up as it gets, I thought it would be an ideal opportunity to lower the hull. After removing the location pins on the suspension arms they were moved up only 3mm but it made all the difference in the way that the vehicle sits.

CAM NET

Almost all of the pictures I found of Warriors involved in Operation Iraq Freedom had cam nets or some material over the front head lights to stop any glare. To recreate this, toilet tissue dampened in watered down PVA glue was pushed into

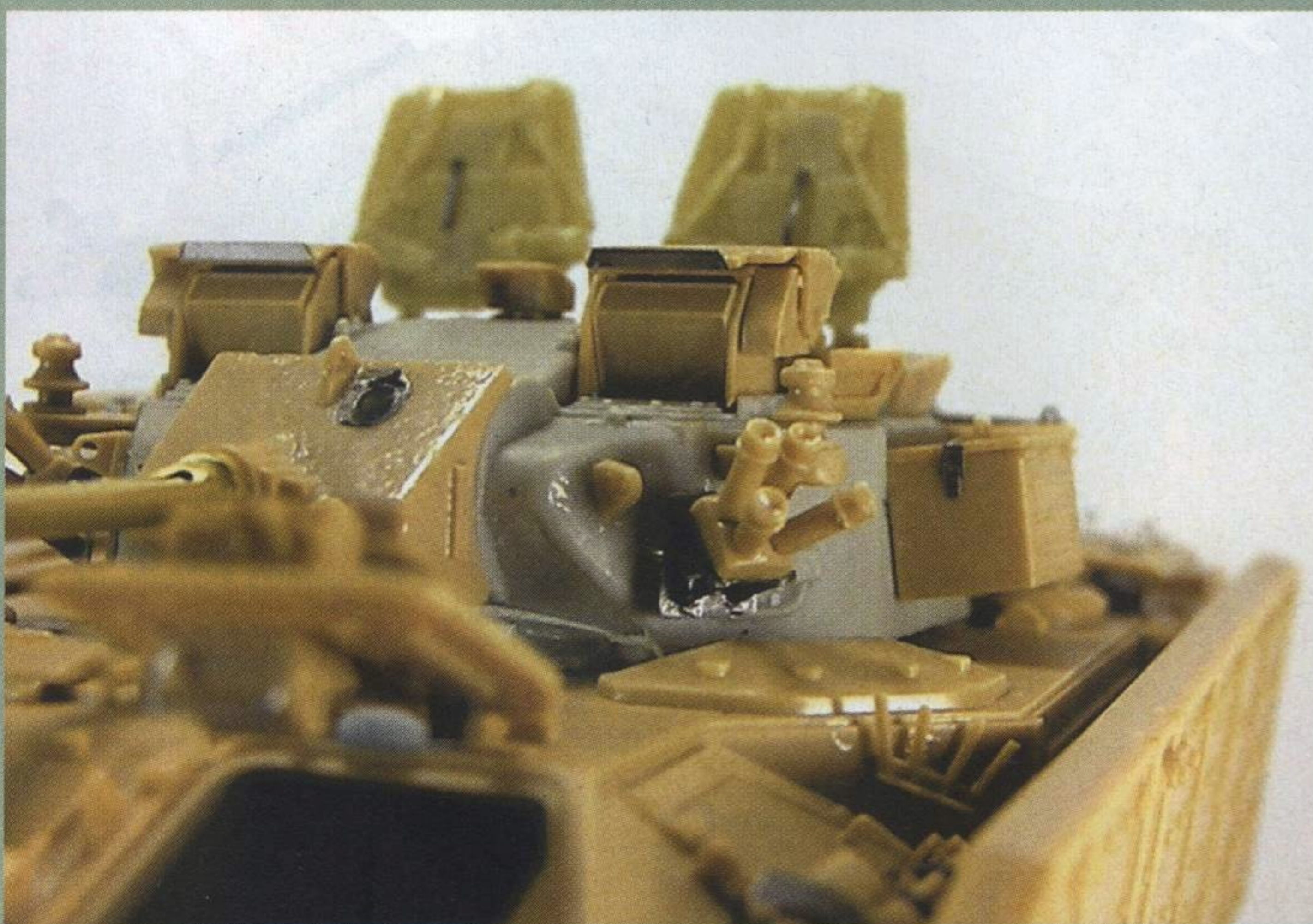
the basic shape of the net and then dried herbs were sprinkled over the damp tissue. To help secure the herbs, the same watered down glue was very gently brushed over. This process was repeated when the first application of herbs was dry so gradually building up a nice bushy effect.

MASKING

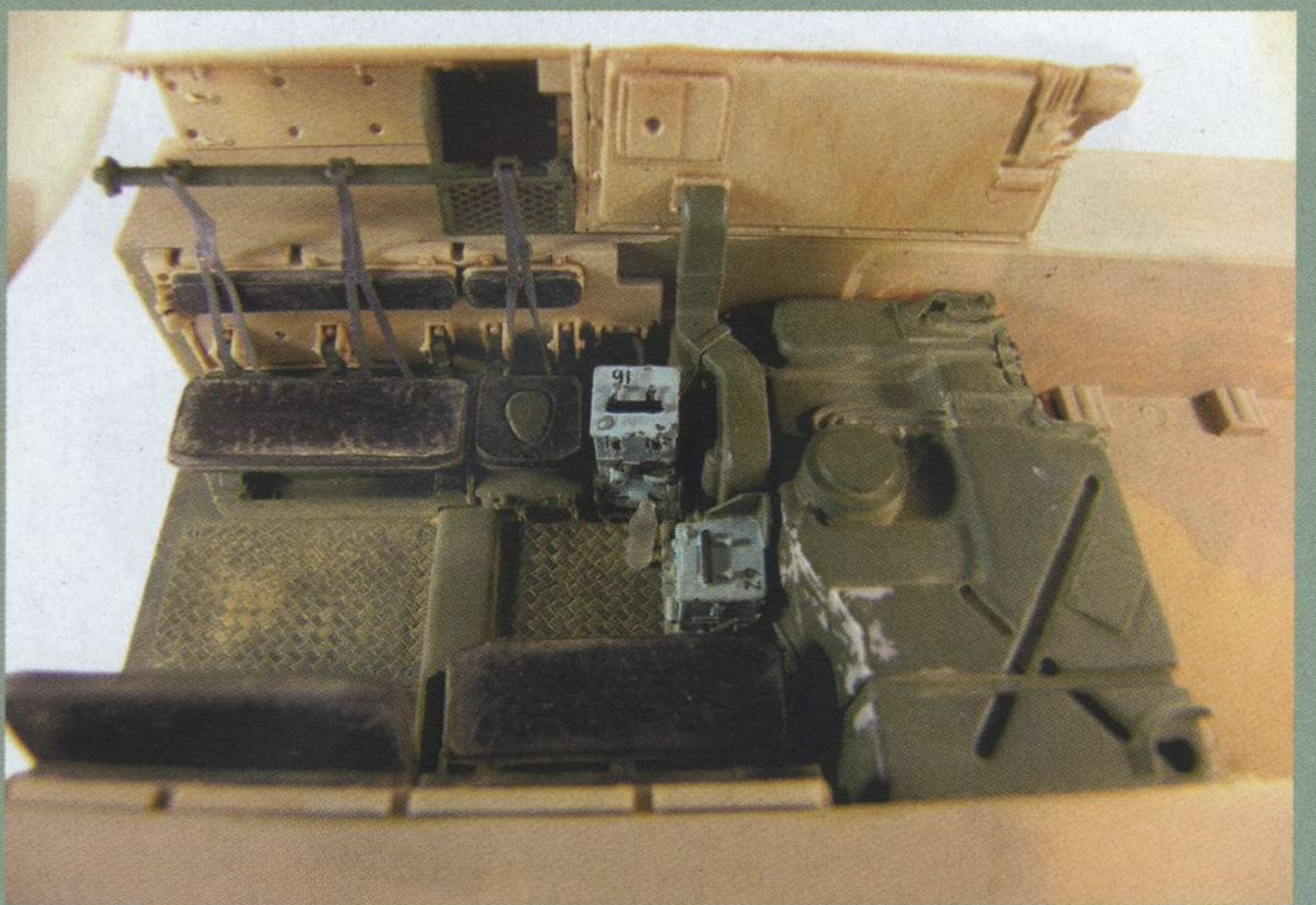
With all the interior and exterior work completed, it was now time to protect it from the exterior priming and painting. For this I first push toilet tissue into the interior through all the open hatches. Then, using decorator's masking tape (which can be picked up cheaply at any DIY outlet), I sealed over the top of the tissue, trimming to fit.

PAINTING

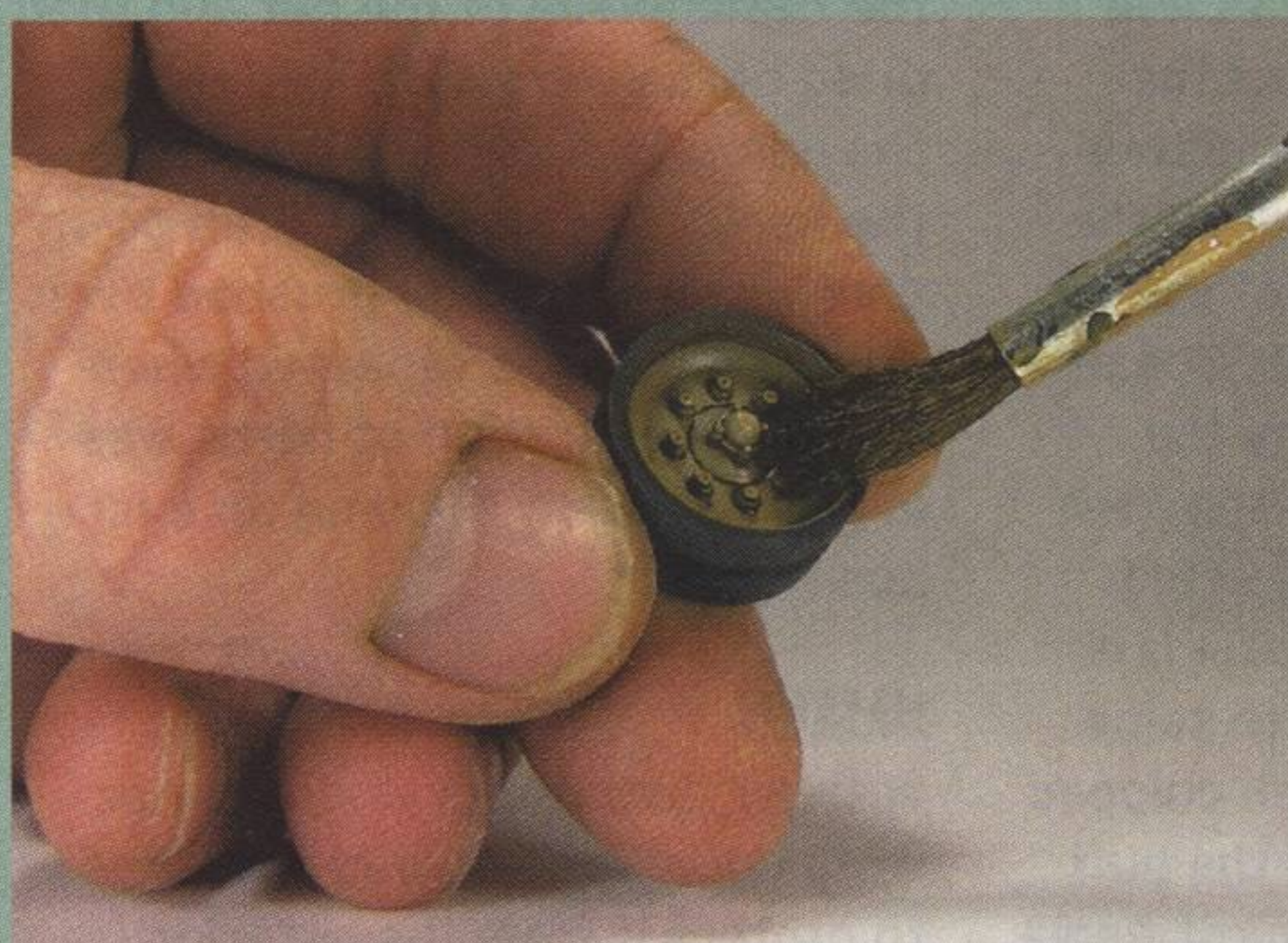
As with all my models, a coat of Halfords white primer was sprayed over the kit. After a cursory check for blemishes it was time to get some colour on and bring the vehicle to life. I sprayed Tamiya NATO Black XF-69 into corners and some darker areas to pre-shade the panels. The entire model then received light coats of a Tamiya Buff / XF-57 Matt White mix with the addition of a little Tamiya Flesh XF-15 and Dark Grey XF-63 all thinned with Tamiya thinners in a 50/50 ratio. I concentrated this mix at the centre of the panels slowly adding more flesh and white heavily thinned so not to obscure the colour below. Before leaving the main painting behind, I added the air recognition chevrons and to do this, I masked off the shapes and then sprayed Tamiya NATO Black again using a little flesh to lift the colour from being too dark. With the paint completely dry, a fine coat of Tamiya Clear X-22



Eduard's etched brass set proved very helpful for detailing some of the over scale parts in the kit and missing clamps, clasps and brackets.



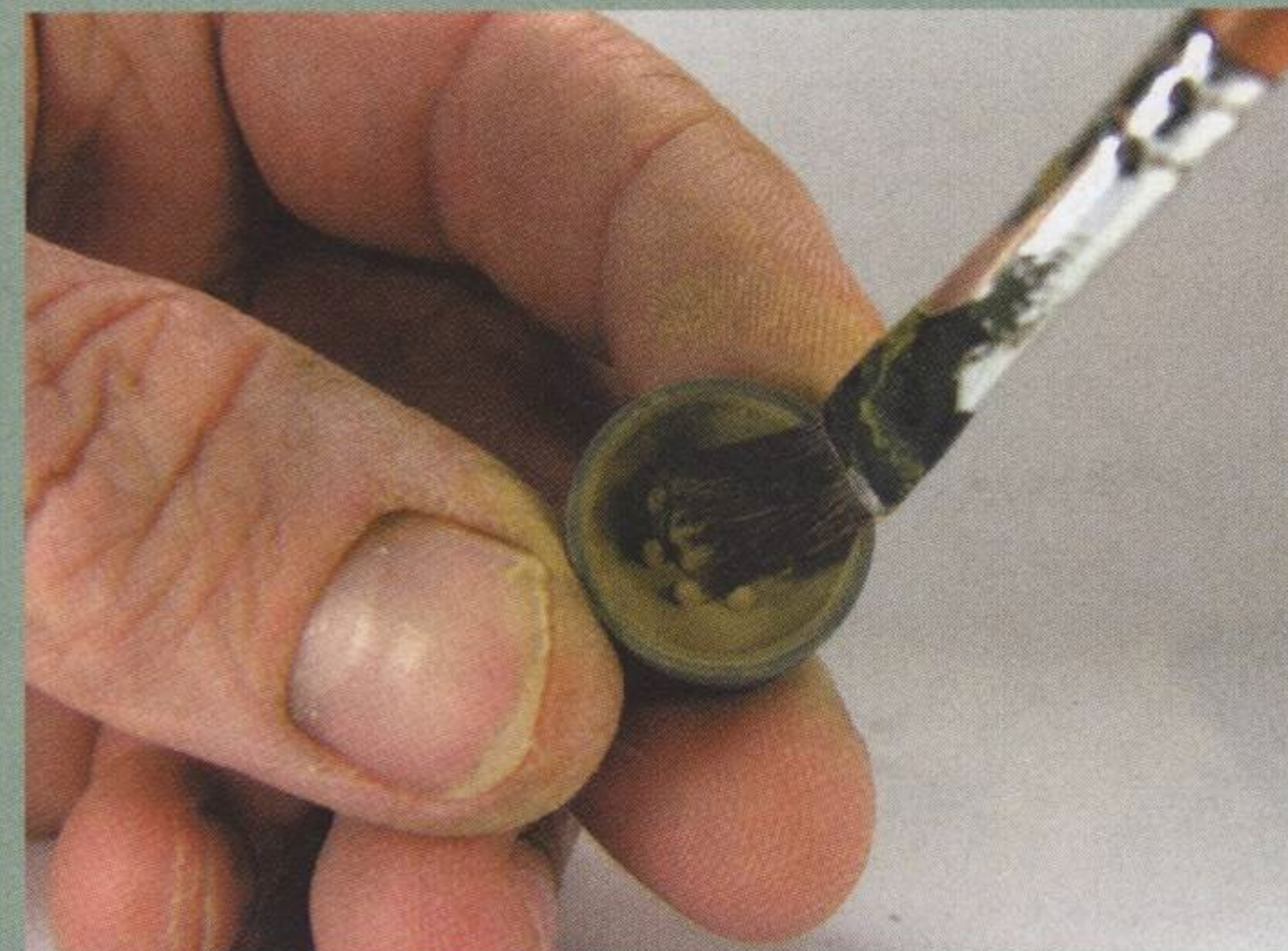
The Accurate Armour interior in place. Note the crew toilet and the boiling vessel used to heat up their compo rations and for producing boiling water for life saving tea and coffee.



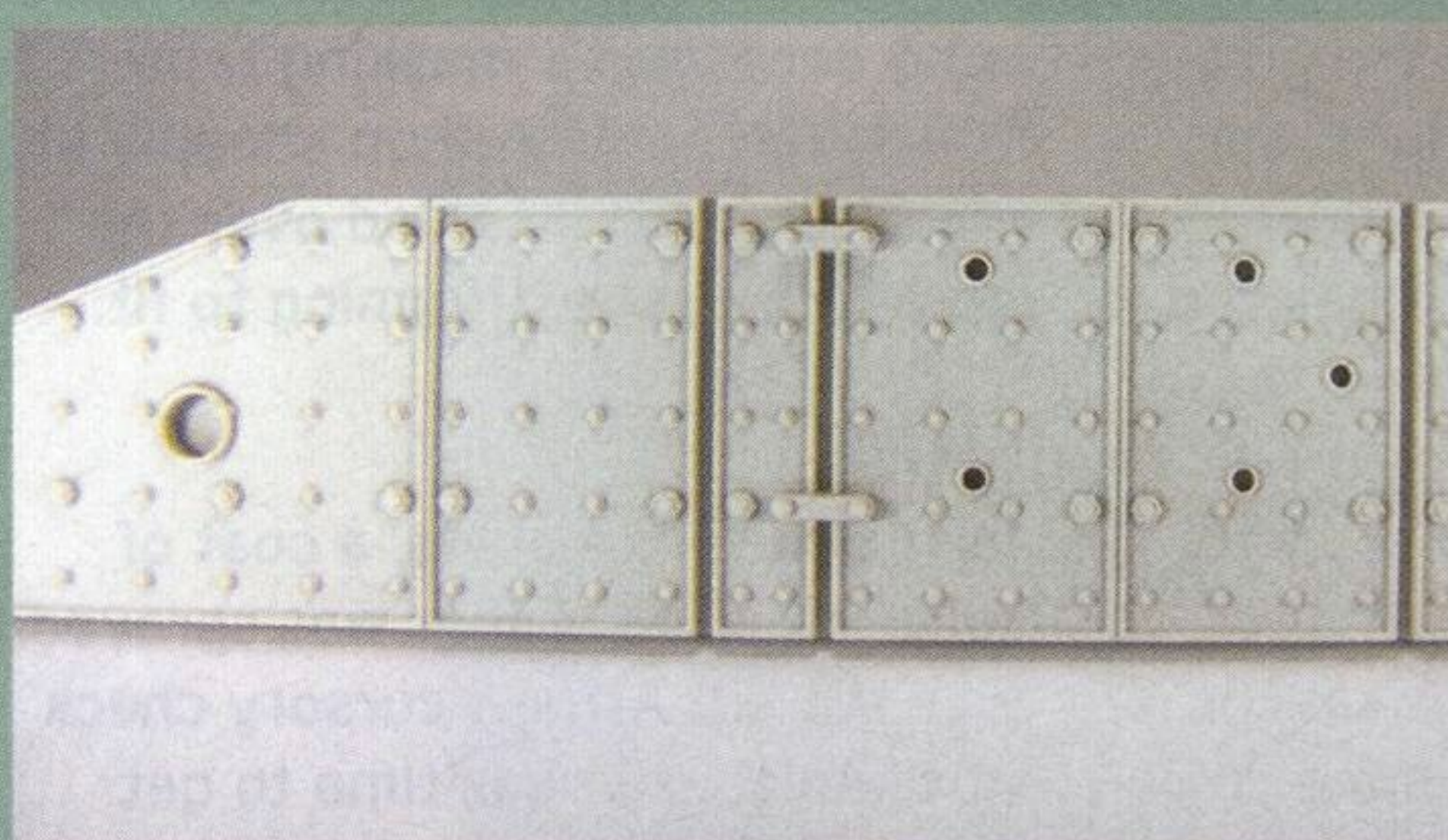
The wheels received a colourwash of white spirit and oil paint to accentuate the bolt detail before the dust coating was applied.



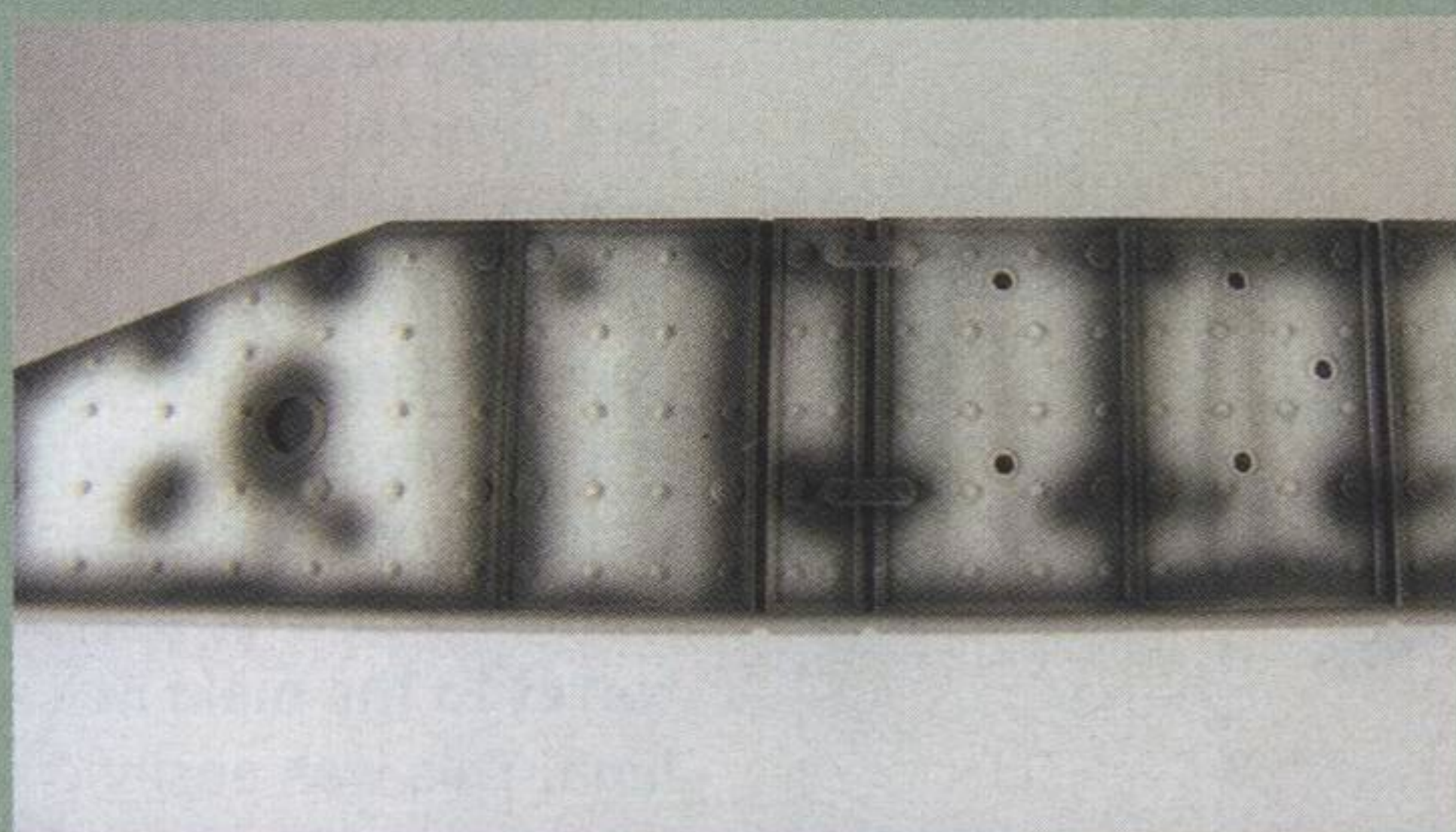
To weather the wheels the author used a mix of Mig Productions Gulf Sand PO-37 pigment diluted with white spirit.



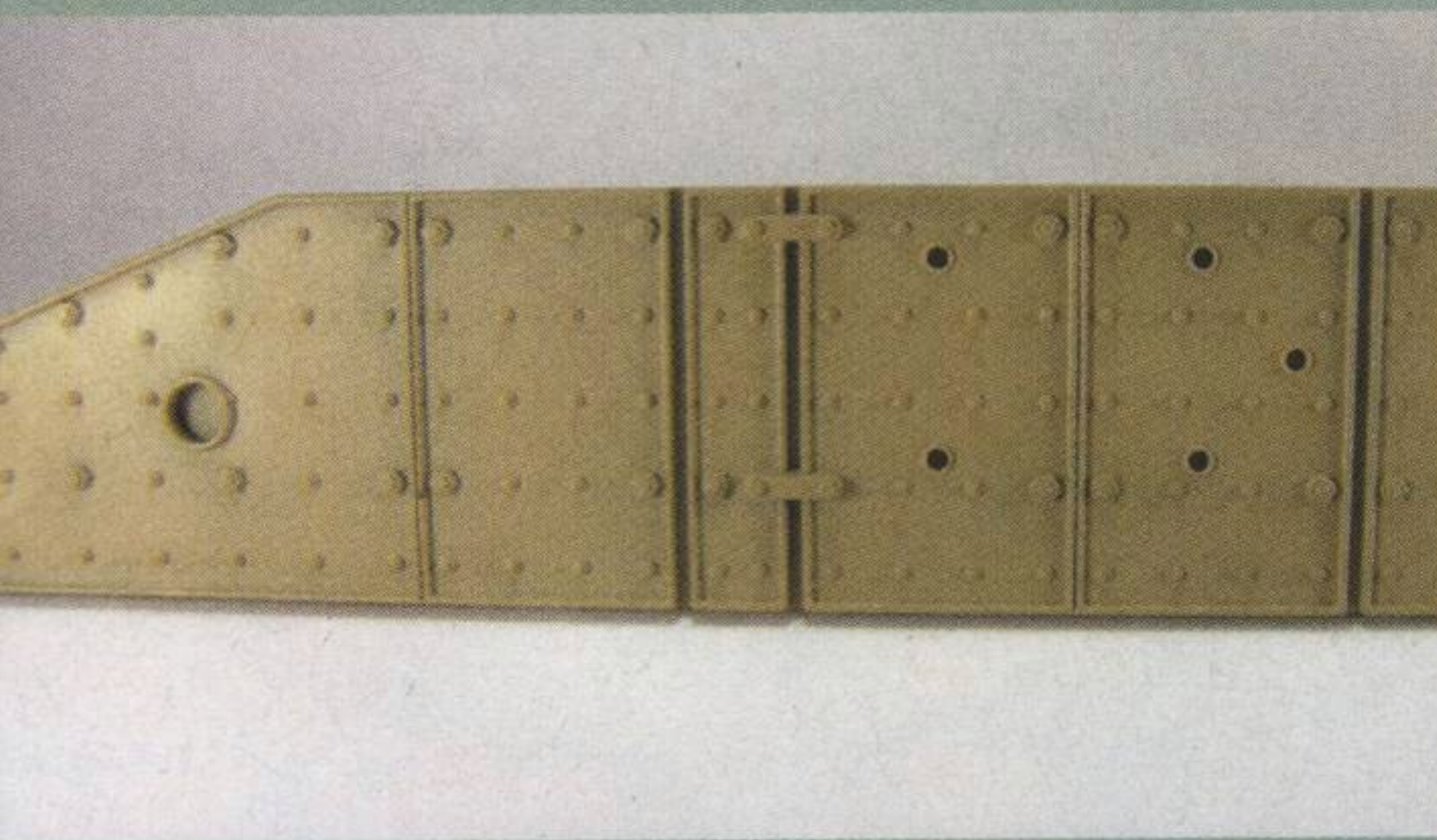
Once the pigment mix had dried the excess was removed using an old flat artist's brush. This leaves a natural build-up around detail and in all recesses.



To prime the model, the author uses Halfords acrylic white aerosol primer. The model is then checked for any blemishes.



To add depth and interest to the overall base colour and for this Tamiya NATO Black XF 69 was sprayed around and along all details.



Although not readily apparent in this shot, the shading shows through the base sand colour adding visual interest and contrast to a monotone finish.

was then sprayed over the whole kit to protect the paint and give a gloss surface on which to apply the decals. The turret bin numbers and rear number plate were the only ones that I used from the extensive sheet supplied in the box. The Scottish lion on the mantlet was from Echelon. I gave the model a light wash with white spirit and oil paints before matting down.

I suffered from a major preconception before I started this kit. I thought that coalition vehicles would have little or no paint wear and tear. How wrong I was! Looking through my reference books, I

found the paintwork on British Warriors during Op Telic looked very chipped and worn. Some of the vehicles, especially on their flat surfaces had paintwork worn down to their European camouflage schemes.

As the worn/chipped paintwork was not in my initial plan I could not use some of the latest techniques, so, before starting the chipped paint affect with a small 0/5 brush, most flat surfaces were dry brushed with Humbrol 102 Army Green and 101 Mid green concentrating on hatches, openings and the engine deck areas.

VISION BLOCKS

Vision blocks are there in abundance on the Warrior. A simple and affective means of painting these is to brush the area with thinners then float Humbrol Gloss Black 21 into the recessed area. The paint will naturally spread out and fill the lens.

WEATHERING

As this vehicle is going into a desert diorama, I needed to give it a dusty look. The tracks and running gear were smothered in white spirit then Mig Productions Gulf Sand PO-37 was worked in,

making a paste like substance.

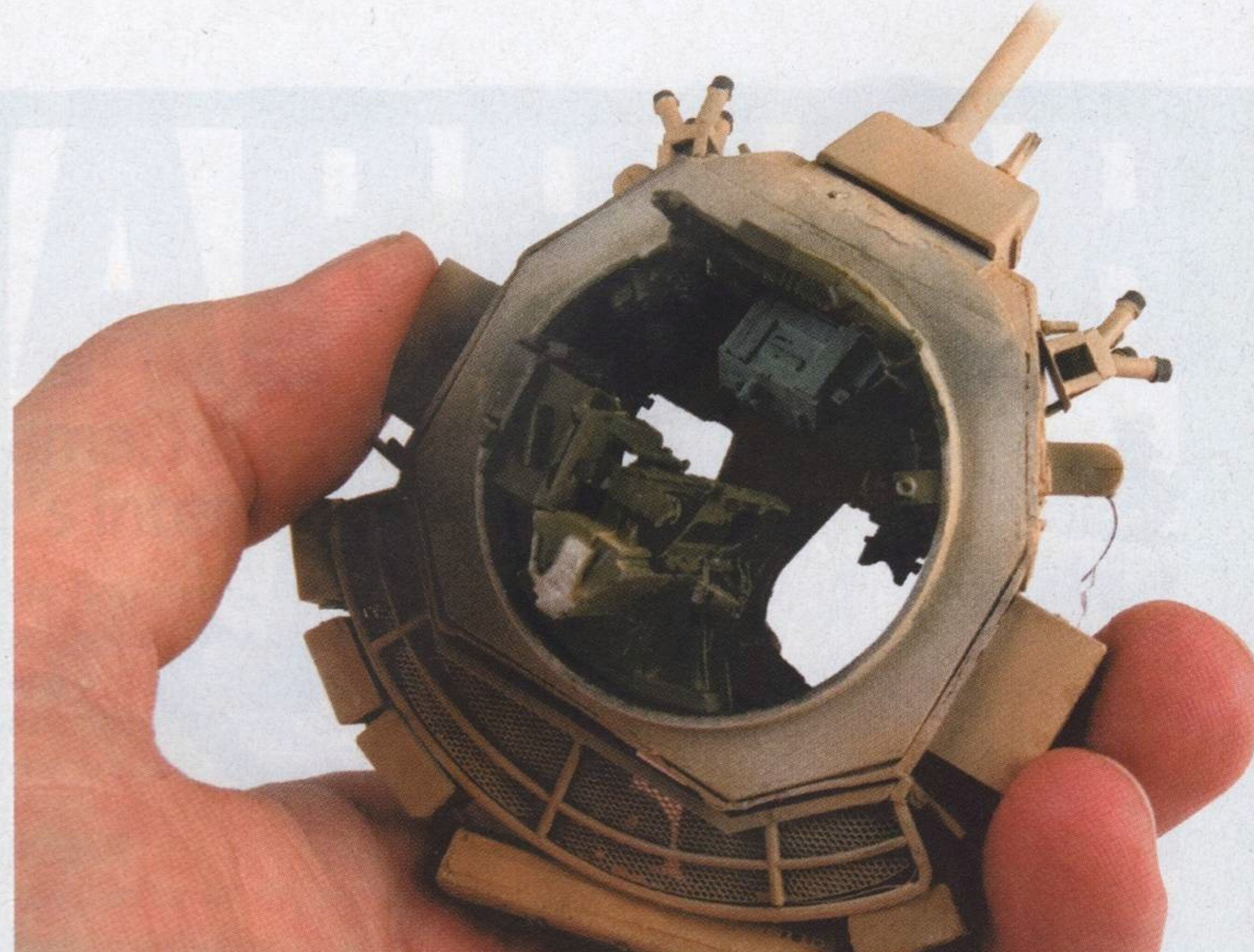
Once dry, the excess dry paste can be brushed off with a flat brush. Some of the powder will be left in recesses just like dirt build up on the real thing.

SLEEPING BAGS

The sleeping bags were sculpted from Milliput Superfine. Once the basic shape was formed, the sleeping bag could be pushed into the corner of the turret stowage bin before the putty hardened. The openings in the top of the bags' dust covers were created using a pinhead and thin brass wire



The sleeping bags in the turret basket were sculpted using Milliput. These were then pushed into place before the putty had set fully. The draw chords were fashioned from thin brass wire.



A 'must have' detail set for the Warrior, if you want to open it all up is Accurate Armour's full interior set, which includes a comprehensive turret interior.



As with many armoured vehicles in service with the British Army stowage bins and empty ammo boxes are utilised by the crews for additional storage space for personal equipment. Note the Cromwell Models replacement turret hatches with integral webbing and pouches.



The kit rubber band tracks were replaced with a set of Fruilmodel white metal working tracks. These are a vast improvement over what Academy supply. However when adding the side armour much of the track is hidden. In this case these tracks were a review sample from a previous incoming feature.



The cam netting has been made using toilet tissue dampened down with watered down PVA glue. Then dried herbs (with an 'h') were sprinkled onto the still wet tissue, this process was repeated until the desired result was achieved.

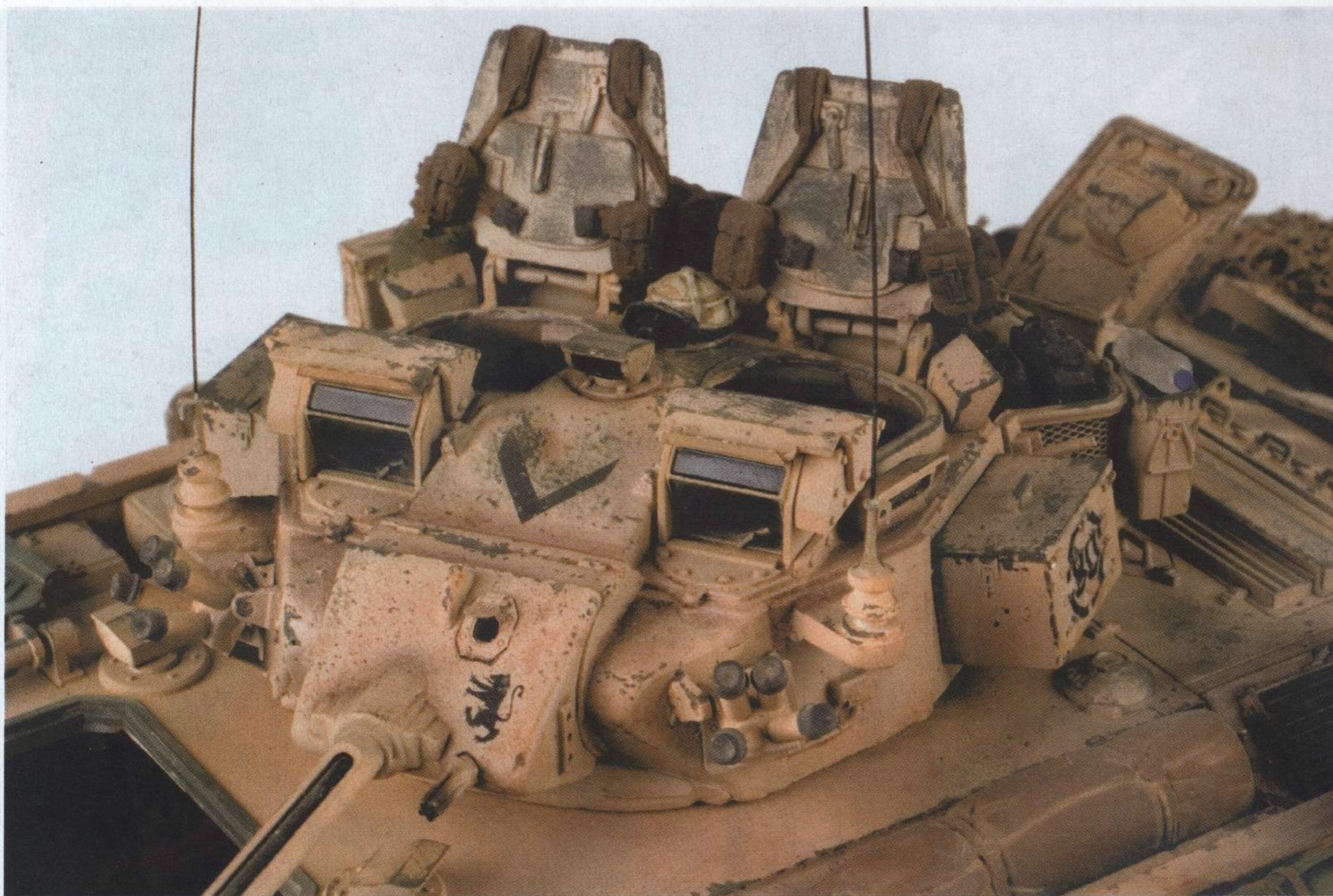


Accurate Armour's range of modern British equipment was used extensively on this project, including the Bergens, bedrolls, RARDEN ammo boxes and the Mk6 infantry helmets.



Overall shot showing how the author has realistically replicated the scuffed and worn effect of the temporary desert which has allowed the standard IRR Green to show through.

The Academy Warrior is the perfect vehicle to add an interior to, due to the size and amount of hatches the vehicle has.



Modelspec

Academy 1:35 Warrior MCV Iraq 2003 Item No.13201

Items used

Academy Warrior MCV IRAQ 2003 kit no 13201
 Model Point 30mm L21A1 barrel
 Accurate Armour accessory UK30mm RARDEN Ammo A026
 Accurate Armour accessory WARRIOR Section Vehicle Interior A088
 Accurate Armour British Army Bergens A023
 Accurate Armour accessory UK30mm RARDEN Ammo Boxes A030
 Fruilmodel Warrior MCV Working Metal Tracks ATL-82
 Cromwell Warrior MCV Turret Hatches with Webbing Eduard etched set for Kit Academy Warrior MCV

Paints used

Tamiya - XF-69 NATO black, XF-59 Desert yellow, XF-15 Flat flesh, XF-21 Sky, XF-67 NATO green, XF-57 Buff, XF-2 Flat white.
 Humbrol - No 101 Mid green, No 102 Army green, No 61 Flesh, No 63 Sand, No 34 White, No 63 Sand, No 70 Brick red, No 99 lemon, No 25 blue, No 250 Desert sand, No 21 gloss black.
 Oils - Burnt umber, Black
 Powders - Mig production No PO 37

References used

DESERT WAR
 Penguin Books ISBN 0-14-016513-4
 WARRIOR
 CONCORD Books ISBN 962-361-674-0
 SPECIAL OPS VOL 26
 CONCORD Books ISBN 962-361-066-1
 SPECIAL OPS VOL 27
 CONCORD Books ISBN 962-361-067-X

Available from

Kit, accessories and paints available from good model shops.
 Fruilmodel from www.historex-agents.co.uk
 Accurate Armour direct from www.accurate-armour.com

was pushed into the soft putty to replicate the pull cords.

BEDROLLS / BERGENS

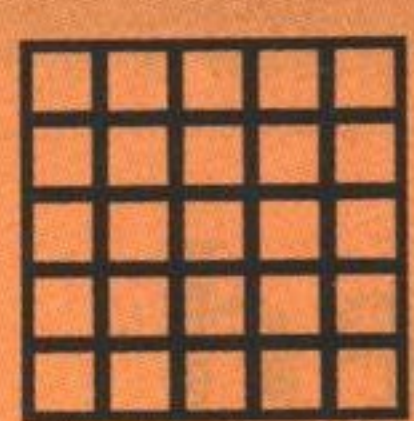
These items are a major feature in the look of the kit. Thumbing through the reference material I had, the thing that struck me was the amount of personal equipment stowed on the outside of Coalition vehicles. Accurate Armour have

a great range of bedrolls and Bergens, but I decided to make my own as, individually, they all look very different, some tightly rolled, others loosely rolled, bits hanging off etc. Very thin plastic card cut into 18mm x 55mm strips was used to recreate the foam matting, it was then rolled and glued in the two spots where the string ties the bedroll closed. Thin brass wire

was wrapped around and knotted to finish them off. The only thing I changed on the Bergens was the resin bedrolls, which I replaced with my own sticking them on thin paper strips, hanging off the Bergen clips. This keeps the pockets and main compartment closed. Paper was also used to make the large straps holding all the kit on the sides of the vehicle. ■

Diorama to follow
 next month...





KV-1 'BEUTE PANZER'

Fraser Gray continues his theme of building some of the many variants of the KV series Russian heavy tank, this time it's a captured one...

At the time of the German invasion of the Soviet Union in June 1941, it would appear that on paper Germany's tank divisions had doubled in size. All that Hitler had done was simply to order the halving of existing panzer divisions to create new ones. To compensate for losses, and the slow production of German tanks, large quantities of Soviet equipment were pressed into German service. These vehicles were captured intact on the battle field thanks to the superior tactics

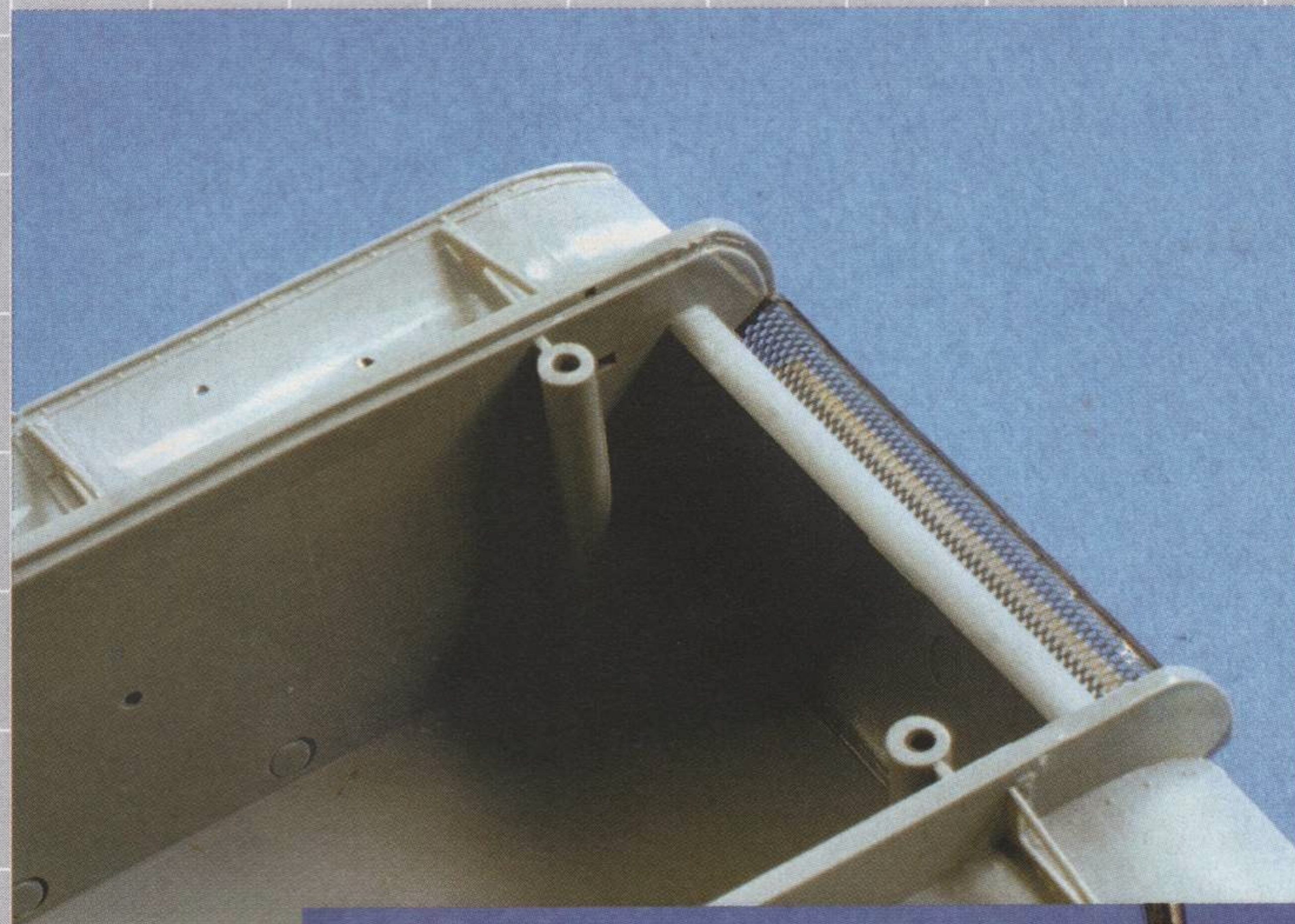
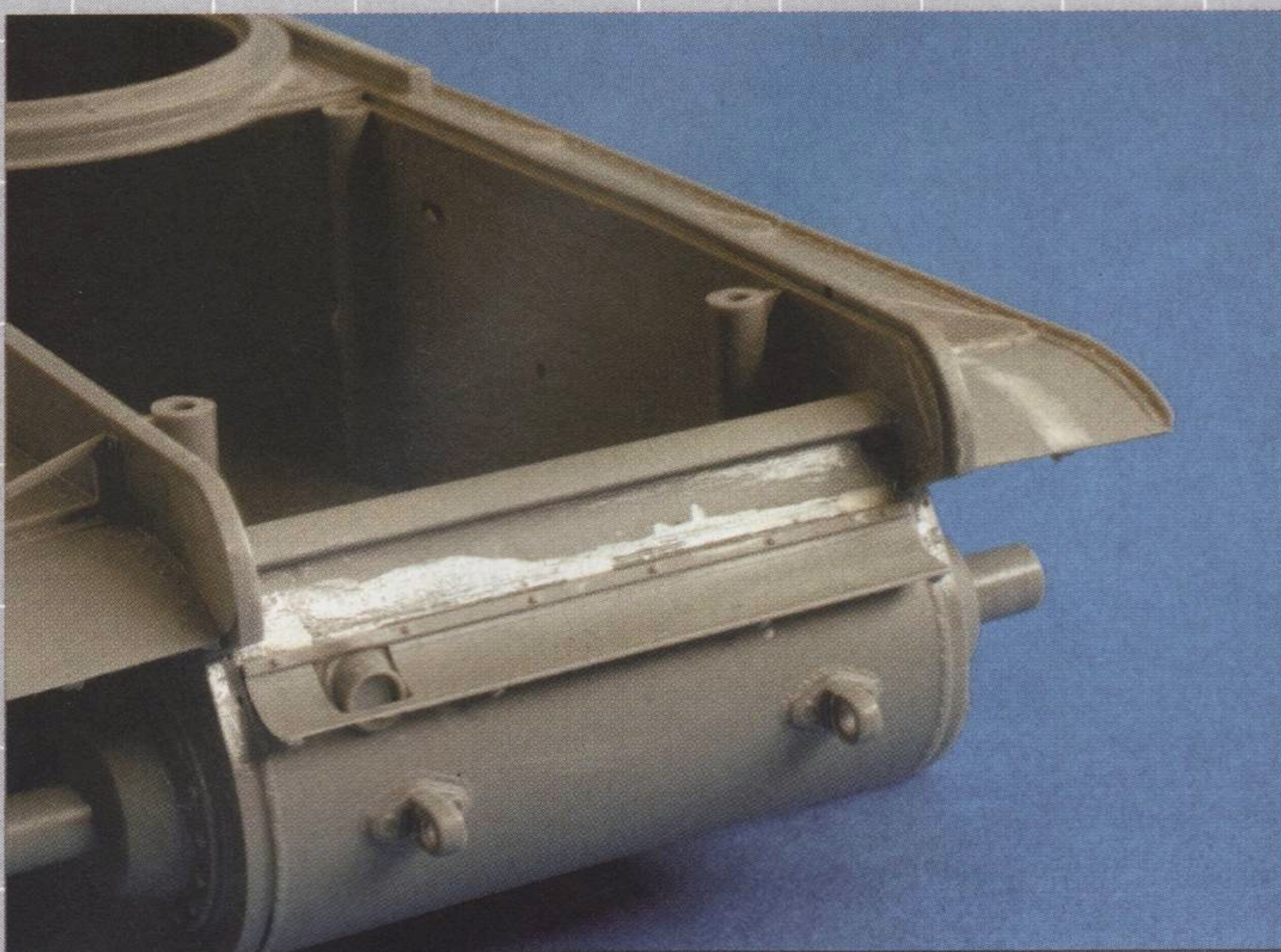
of the Wehrmacht and inexperience of Soviet tank crews. Captured tanks or 'Beutepanzers' were then sent to special field workshops or factories within captured Soviet territory, for conversion to German specifications..

Captured T-34s, KV-1s and KV-2s usually received a commanders cupola, a set of pioneer tools and all obvious Soviet features, such as cylindrical reserve fuel cells were removed. Large and prominent German national markings were then painted to prevent 'friendly fire'.

Trumpeter has chosen to complete their very comprehensive range of the KV-1 series with a KV-1 Beutepanzer. The particular KV-1 Trumpeter have chosen to kit is an unusually extensive conversion, and the model is based on a well known photograph. The German engineers have removed the KV-1's 76mm gun and installed the 75mm cannon from a Panzer IV Ausf G, enabling the use of German ammunition. As well as the typical installation of a Panzer III/IV commanders cupola, the industrious Germans have

added a ventilation dome from a T-34 to the roof. A dummy visor has been welded to the front plate to distract enemy gunners from the vulnerable area, and a large stowage rack has also been added to the rear engine deck.

The kit is well detailed and I particularly liked the internal episcopes detail of the commander's cupola. The modular construction, separately moulded engine deck and crew entry hatches make it an interesting project for those who like to super detail their models. After studying the photograph



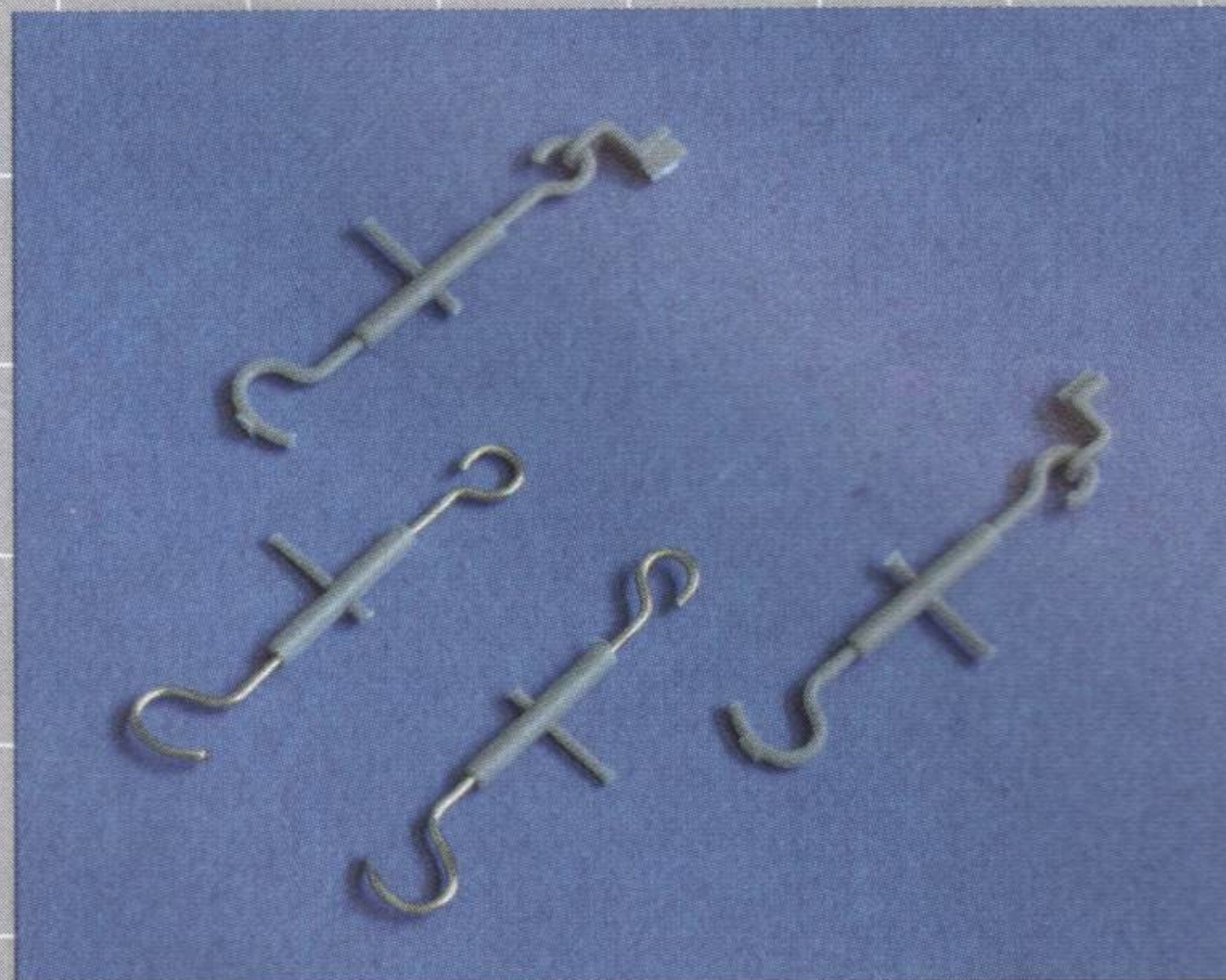
▲ The location slots for the kit's injection moulded ventilation screen were filled. When the putty had dried, the Eduard mesh and support frame was tacked into position with super glue applied only at the corners with a cocktail stick. When I was satisfied with the location of the screen, further glue was applied, permanently securing the screen into position.



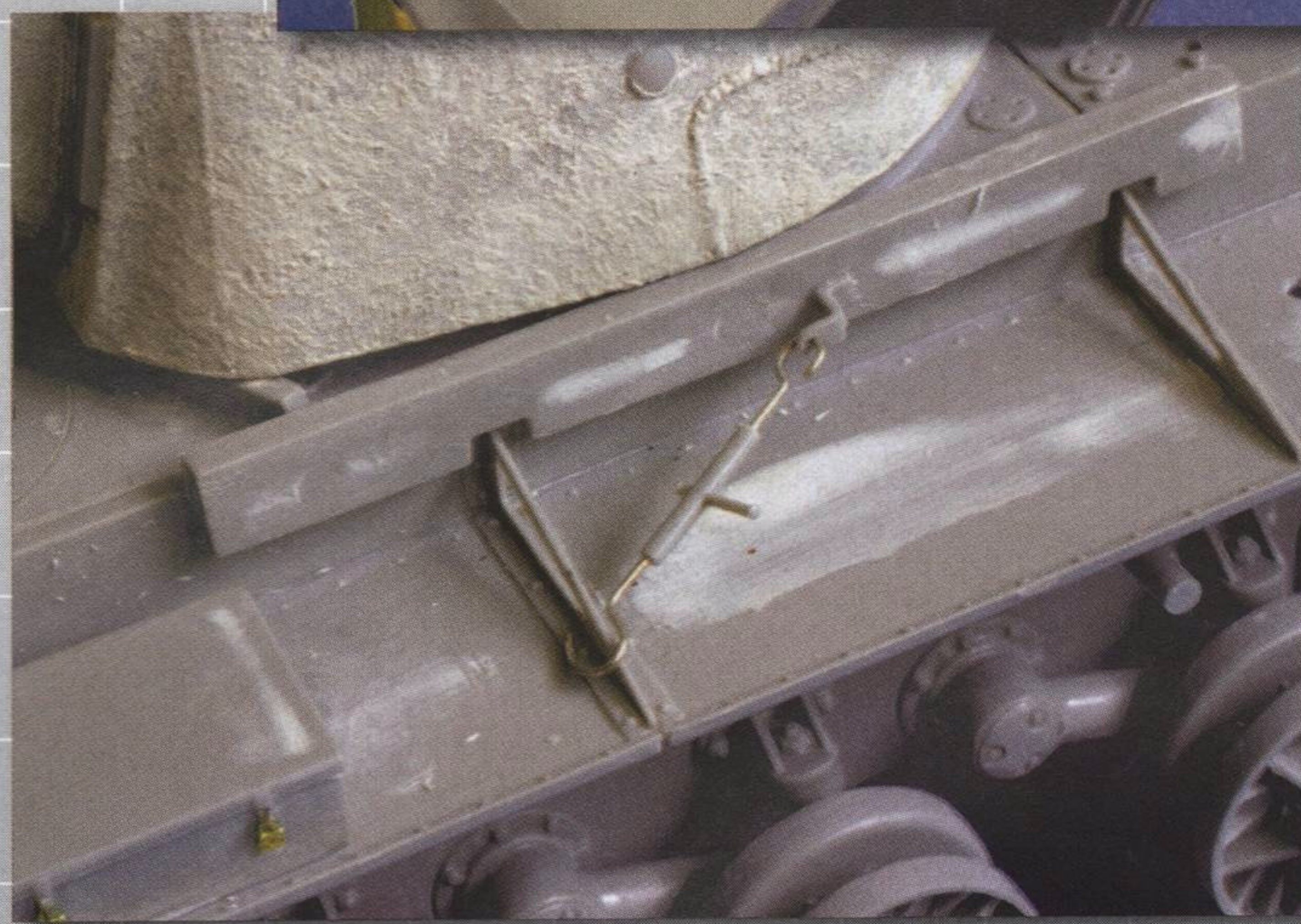
There are some prominent weld beads and casting marks missing from the turret. The weld beads can be represented by super gluing stretched sprue to the turrets side. A pyrogravure or point of a fine soldering iron was used to represent the weld beads.



▲ The appearance of the hatches is considerably improved after the kits integrally moulded locking mechanism is removed and replaced with photo etch items from the Eduard set. The grab handles are from fuse wire bent to shape and secured into pre-drilled location holes.



◀ The tow cable shackles are integrally moulded onto their location lugs. I removed the towing lug and replaced the damaged plastic hooks with ones formed from fuse wire. The lugs were glued into position and the shackles test fitted.



upon which Trumpeter have based their kit, it appears that some minor details have been overlooked such as a stowage rack on the rear of the engine deck, turret lifting lugs and a dummy driver's visor. These omissions are easy to correct and are well within the scope of basic modelling skills.

To complete the model I used some after market items. The set of Fruilmodel tracks look impressive on the model but suffered from poor quality control. A quarter of the track links needed to be drilled through to complete

each track set.

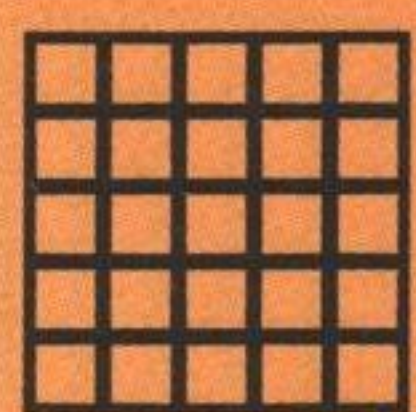
At the time I built the model, Eduard had not produced a dedicated photo etch set for the KV-1 756 (r) and so I used only the most useful items from Eduard set 35 824, such as the engine deck air intake grilles and the locking mechanism on the hatch interiors. I cannot understand why any modeller would wish to undertake the work replacing the track guard supports when the kit's supplied items are perfectly acceptable.

The model was airbrushed with acrylic paints from the Lifecolor

German WWII Tanks Set 1, which contains six jars of paint. The paint is excellent and airbrushes well. The selection of colours supplied in the boxed set is eccentric, and includes four variations of sand together with red brown and green. Whilst I understand the commercial goals of Lifecolor, the inclusion of four variation of sand completely negates any advantages for the customer in purchasing a set of paints. I would have preferred to have seen a single set of German paints containing dark yellow, Afrika Korps sand, red brown,

green, dark grey and winter camouflage white. I have no doubt that some of these colours are available in Lifecolor German WWII Tanks Set 2!

I enjoyed building the KV-1 756(r), which combined my interest in Soviet and German WWII armour in one model. The kit is excellent value for money, for example you can buy the model and Jochen Vollert's KV-1 book for the same price as a Dragon Kit! ■



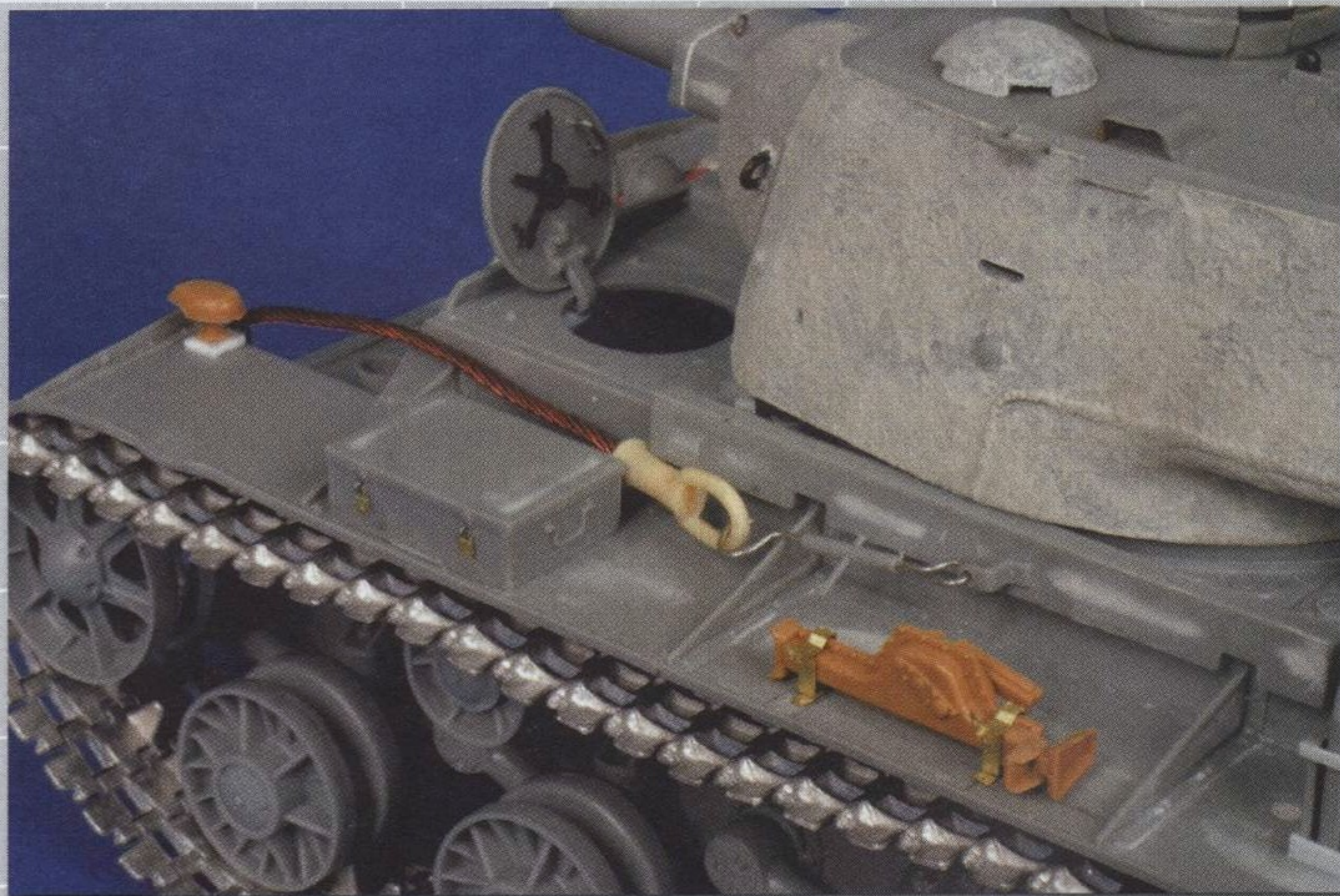
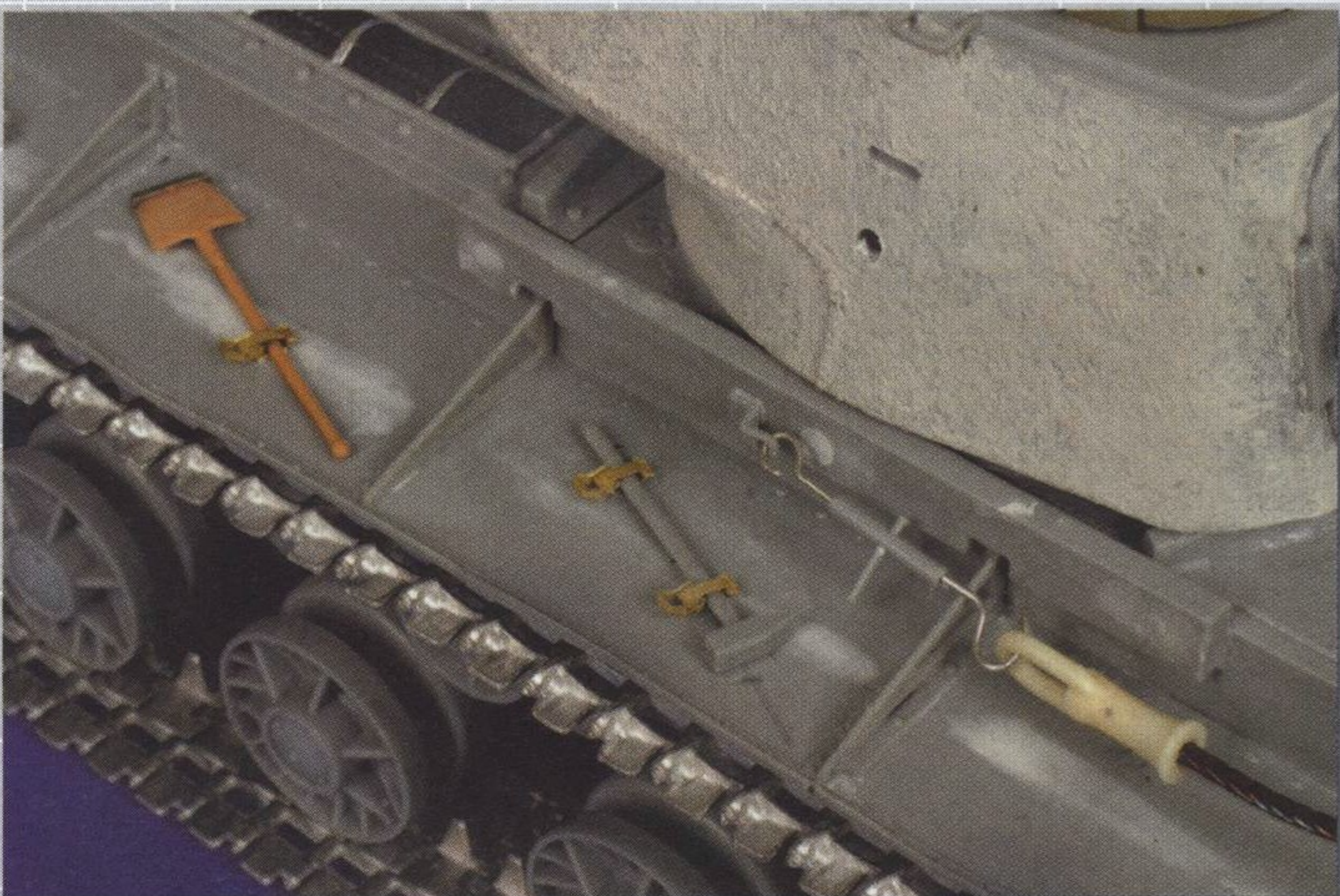
Tech Guide - 1:35 Eastern Express KV-14 (SU I52)



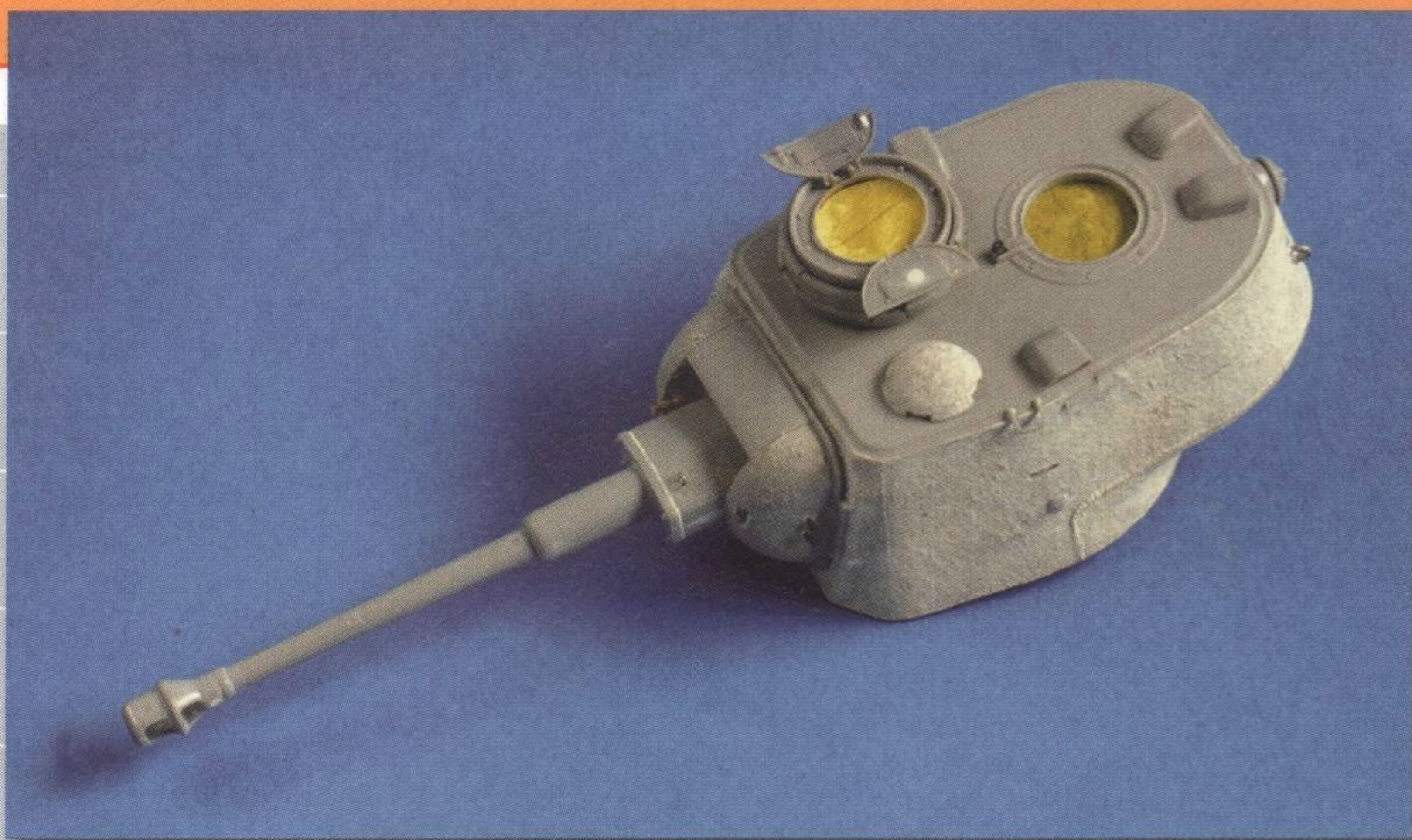
▲ With reference to the photograph of the original tank, Trumpeter have forgotten to supply a large stowage rack on the rear of the vehicle. I had to guess the size and position and make the rack from microstrip. I positioned the two triangular braces to the hull sides and then took my measurements and cut the horizontal cross braces. When I had completed the job, it reminded me of the field adaptations made to some Sturmgeschütz IIIs to carry extra jerry cans, although I have chosen to fill the model's rack with bed rolls and boxes.



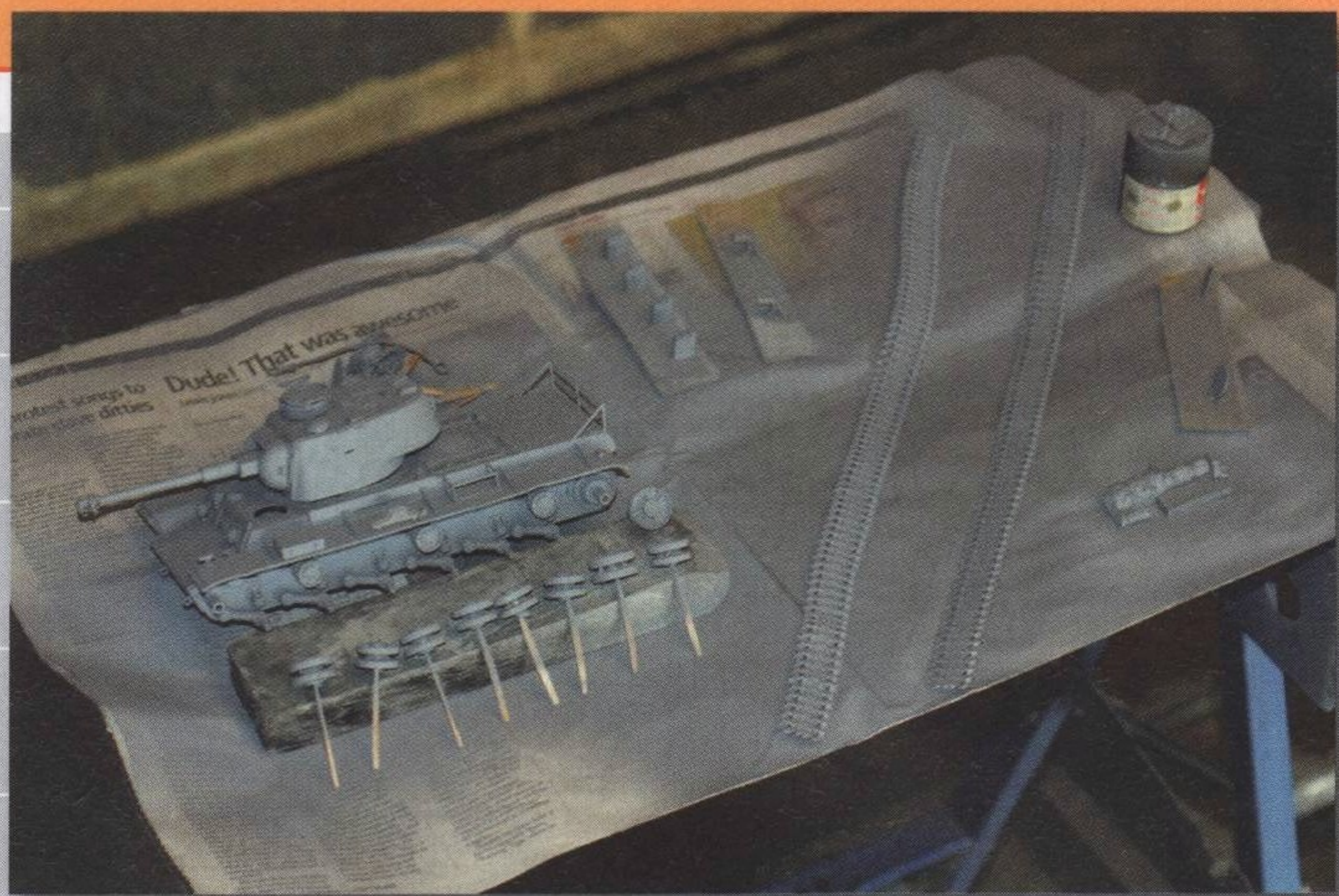
▲ To avoid a 'stuck on' look I decided to try and sculpt my own bedrolls so that they conformed to the shape of the KV-I engine deck. I used Milliput putty and rolled out two cylinders. When the putty had partially set, I used a cocktail stick to sculpt a spiral at the end of each cylinder to suggest a rolled up bed roll. The engine deck was given a light dusting of talcum powder to prevent the putty from sticking. I then placed the two cylinders on to the engine deck, to achieve a natural sit, with part of the bedroll pushed between the bars of the stowage rack. I then pushed into the putty some resin bed rolls from CMK 3034 Rucksacks and Tents set. The boots and ammunition case came from Verlinden sets No 0577 and No I396. Because of the flexibility of the plastic strip I had used to build the stowage rack I was able to remove the stowage for separate painting when the model had been painted.



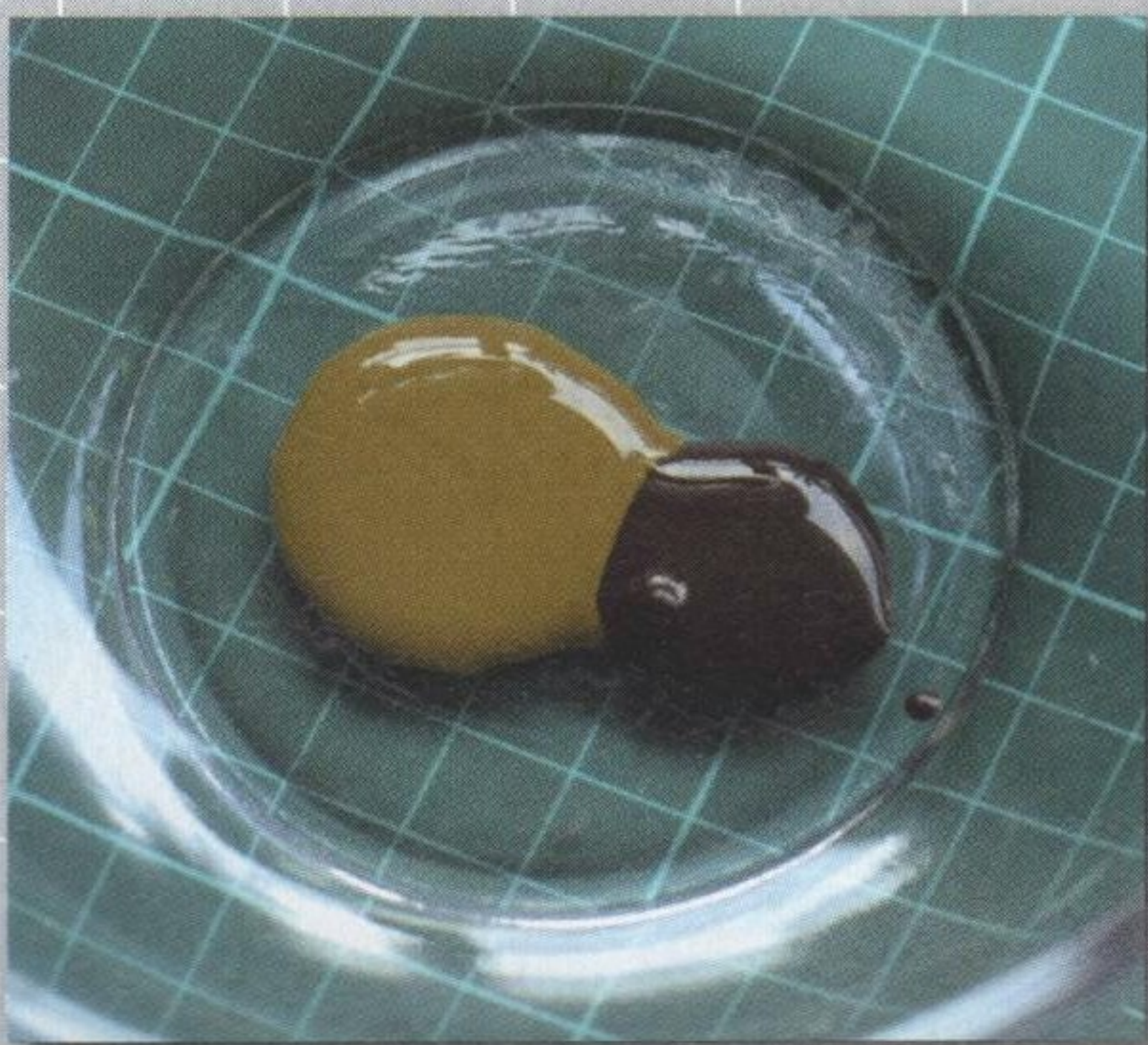
▲ The original photograph of the KV-I seems to have been taken whilst the engineers were in the process of converting the Soviet tank and gives the impression of work in progress. One of the tracks is broken and there is a tool box resting on the recuperator housing. Assuming that further work was carried out on the tank, I decided to add some extra items not present in the photo. After studying pictures of other 'Germanised' Soviet tanks which are generally equipped with a set of pioneer tools, Notek and convoy light and so I have added these items to the model, all from Tamiya's useful On-Vehicle Equipment Set Item 35I85. The various clasps for the tools are from Aber set 35 A20.



▲ The completed model was washed in warm water and detergent to remove dust and debris. The road wheels were attached to tooth picks, ready to be sprayed with Halfords grey automotive primer. To avoid damaging the paint work inside the commanders cupola, I filled the open apertures with Tamiya masking tape cut to size with an Olfa circle cutter.



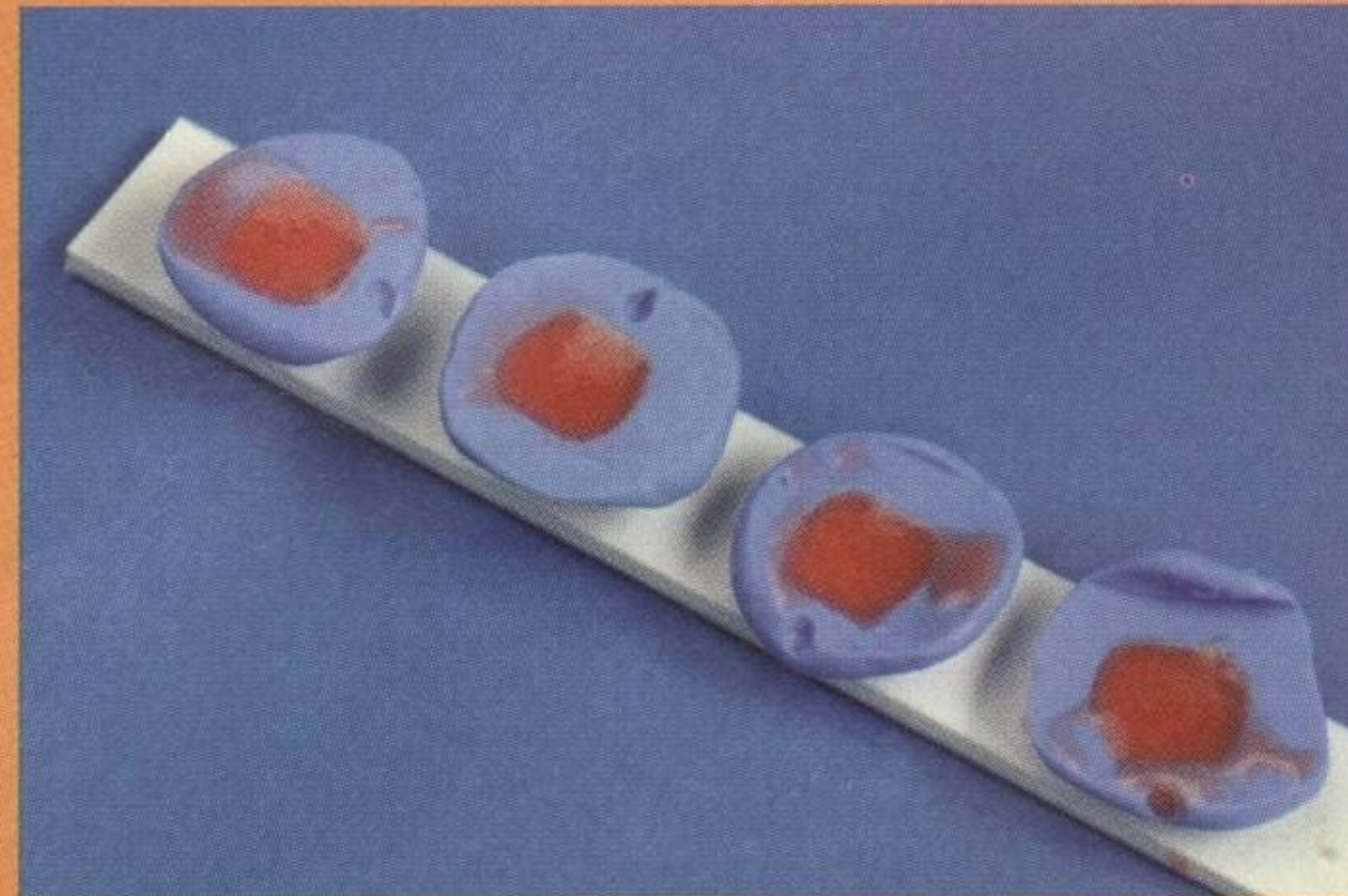
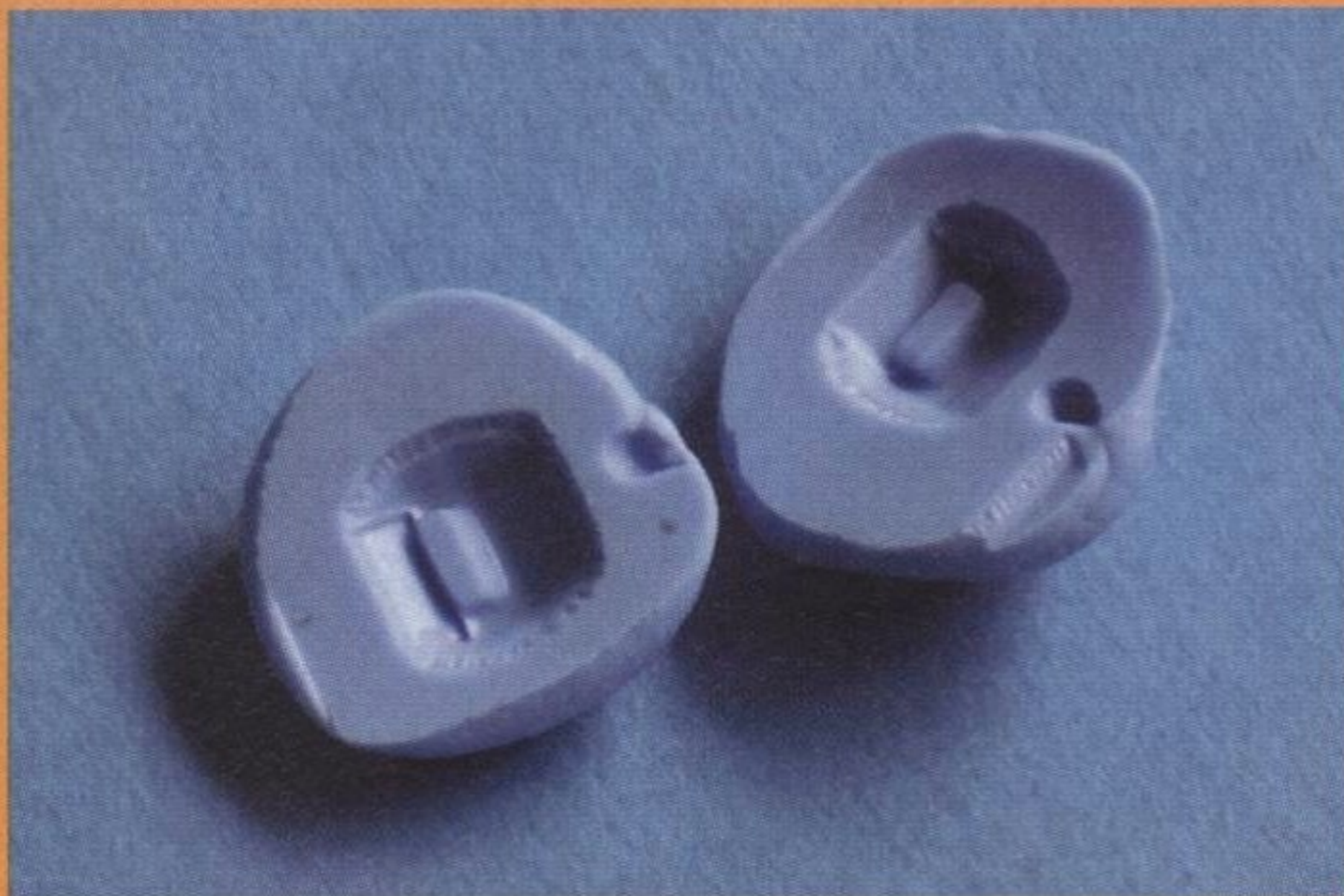
▲ It is essential to prime your models before painting. This provides an even surface combining all the different materials used in construction. The primer also provides a surface on to which the paint can grip, preventing any damage as further varnishing and weathering processes are carried out on the model. Because of the fumes, I prime my models in the garage. I always wear a 3M particulate respirator. Its worth protecting your health for the price of a modest kit! If you can smell the primers solvents through the respirator, then it is time to get a new one.



▲ When the primer has cured, I airbrush a coat of dark brown over the model, the exact shade is unimportant as most of it will be covered up. The purpose of this dark brown coat is to exaggerate the shadow areas on a model to give the impression of how the human eye would see a full sized vehicle.



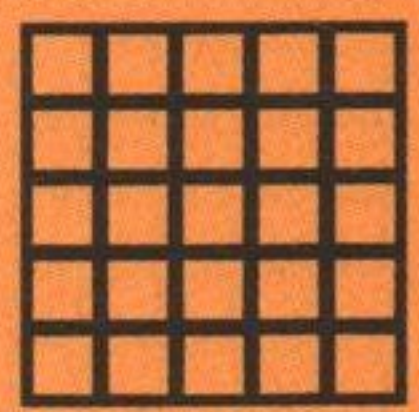
▲ I usually blend my interpretation of German dark yellow from the Tamiya range of paints. On this occasion I purchased the Lifecolor WWII Tanks set. I selected Gelbraun which I found too dark and mixed in some Tamiya Flat White XF-2. Holding the airbrush away from the model and at its broadest spray setting, I airbrushed the upper surfaces of the model. Check that the paint is still wet when it comes into contact with the model. If you are too far away the paint will be dry, and form a granular texture which will obscure detail. If you are uncertain of the technique, experiment on an old model to ascertain the correct distance for using your own particular airbrush. When the upper surfaces have been painted, I move the airbrush closer to the model and spray the vertical surfaces from the top of the turret to the turret ring. The effect is slightly darker than the upper surfaces, with bands of the darker base colour just visible, replicating dust and grime that has washed down the side of the vertical surfaces. Leave some of the dark brown just visible around the detail, for example the base of the cupola.



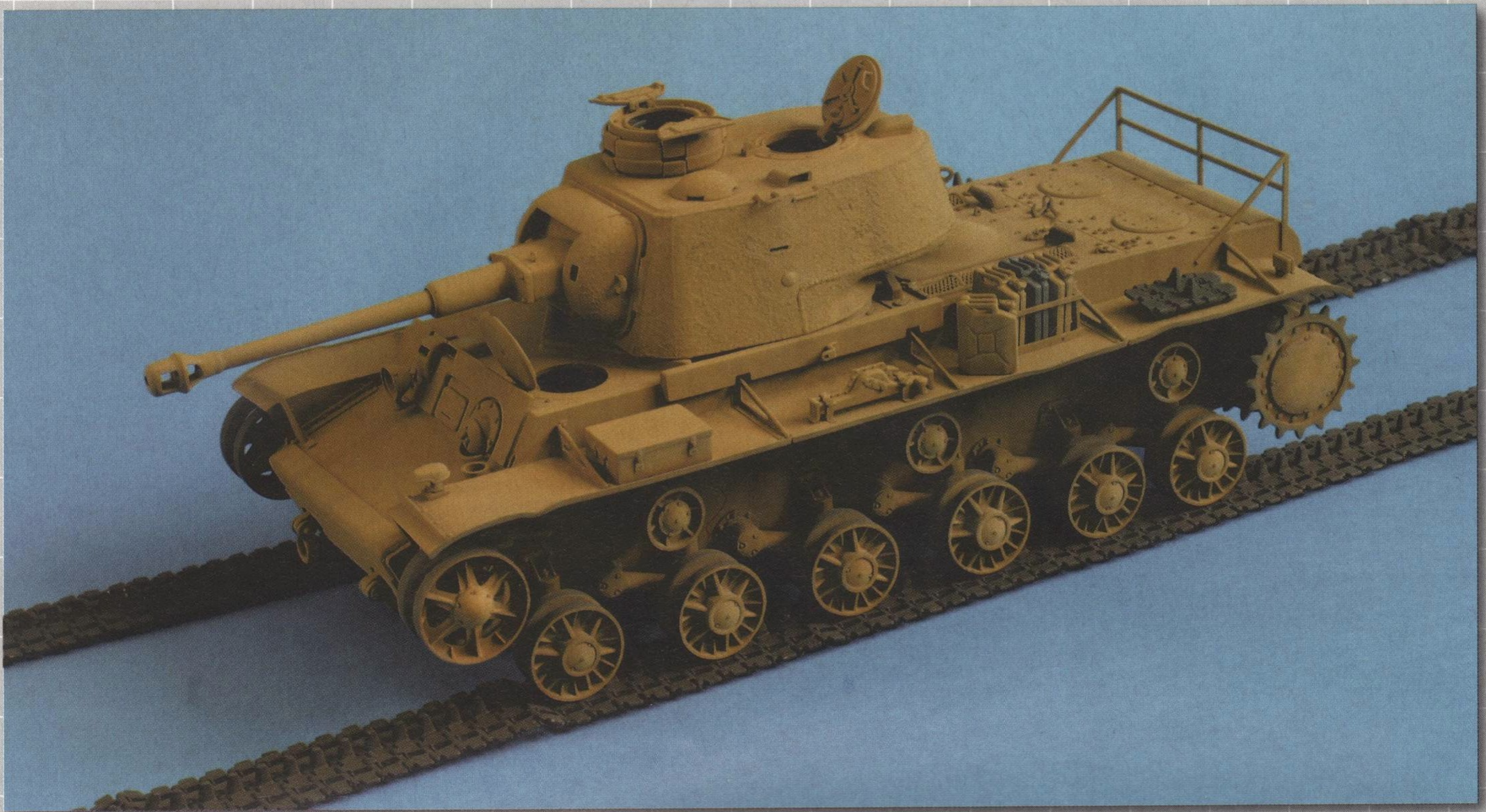
Tech tip.

After carefully checking the photograph published in Jochen Vollert's book on the late war KV-I, I could see the German field engineers had welded a dummy drivers visor, (which appears to have been removed from the turret of a T-34/76) to the bow armour, I copied the part from my Dragon T-34 kit using a binary mould making putty which is available in art and craft stores. The two part putty is mixed together to initiate the curing process, and then quickly placed over the Dragon kit part, as the putty sets very quickly.

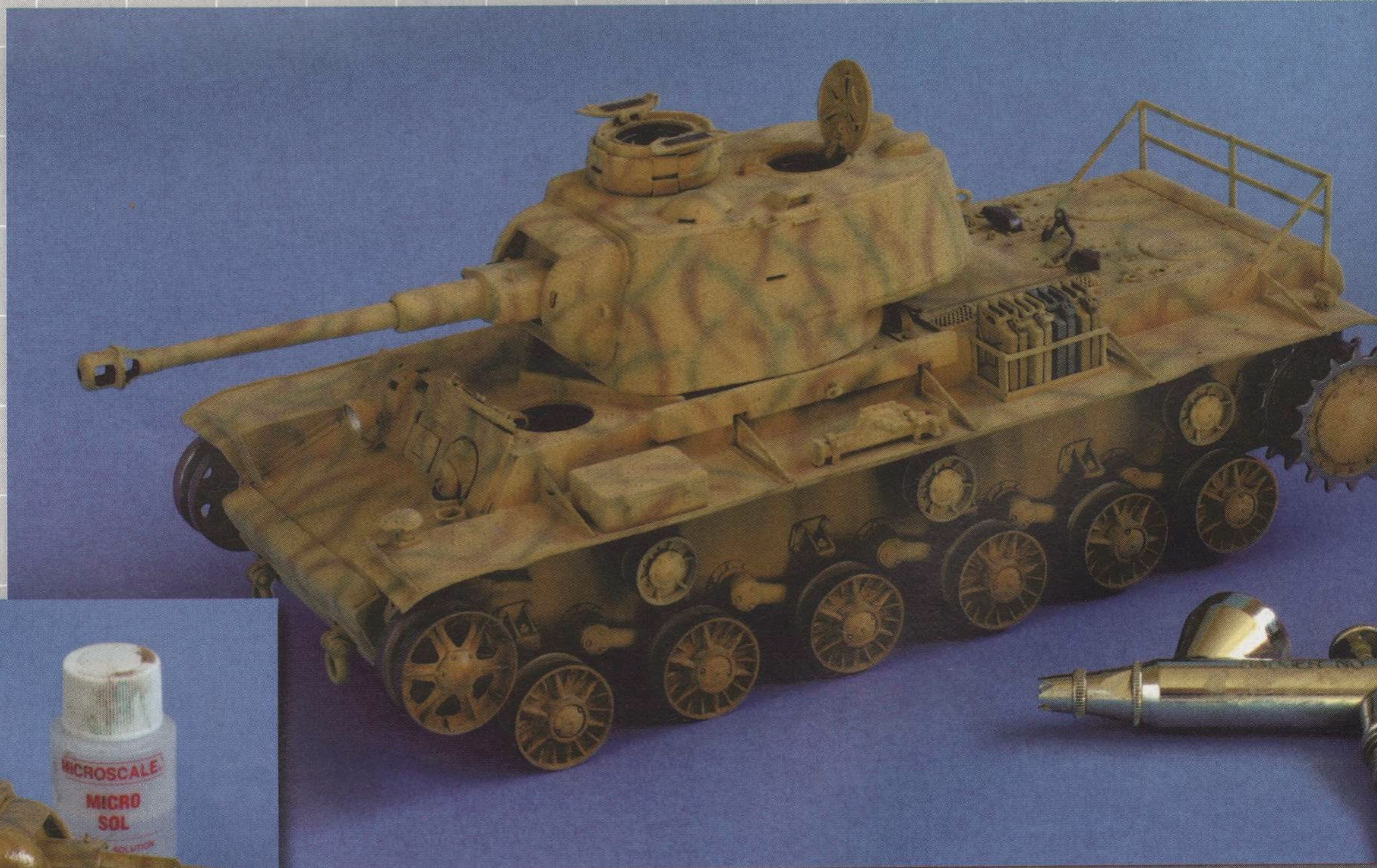
I made several copies and then glued the moulds to a strip of plastic card. Each individual mould was filled with David's Fast Glas Resin (a car repair resin for use with glass fibre mat). When the resin had cured, the sharpest copy was selected, cleaned up and glued into position on the model.



Tech Guide - 1:35 Eastern Express KV-14 (SU I52)



▲ All the model's components have now been painted.

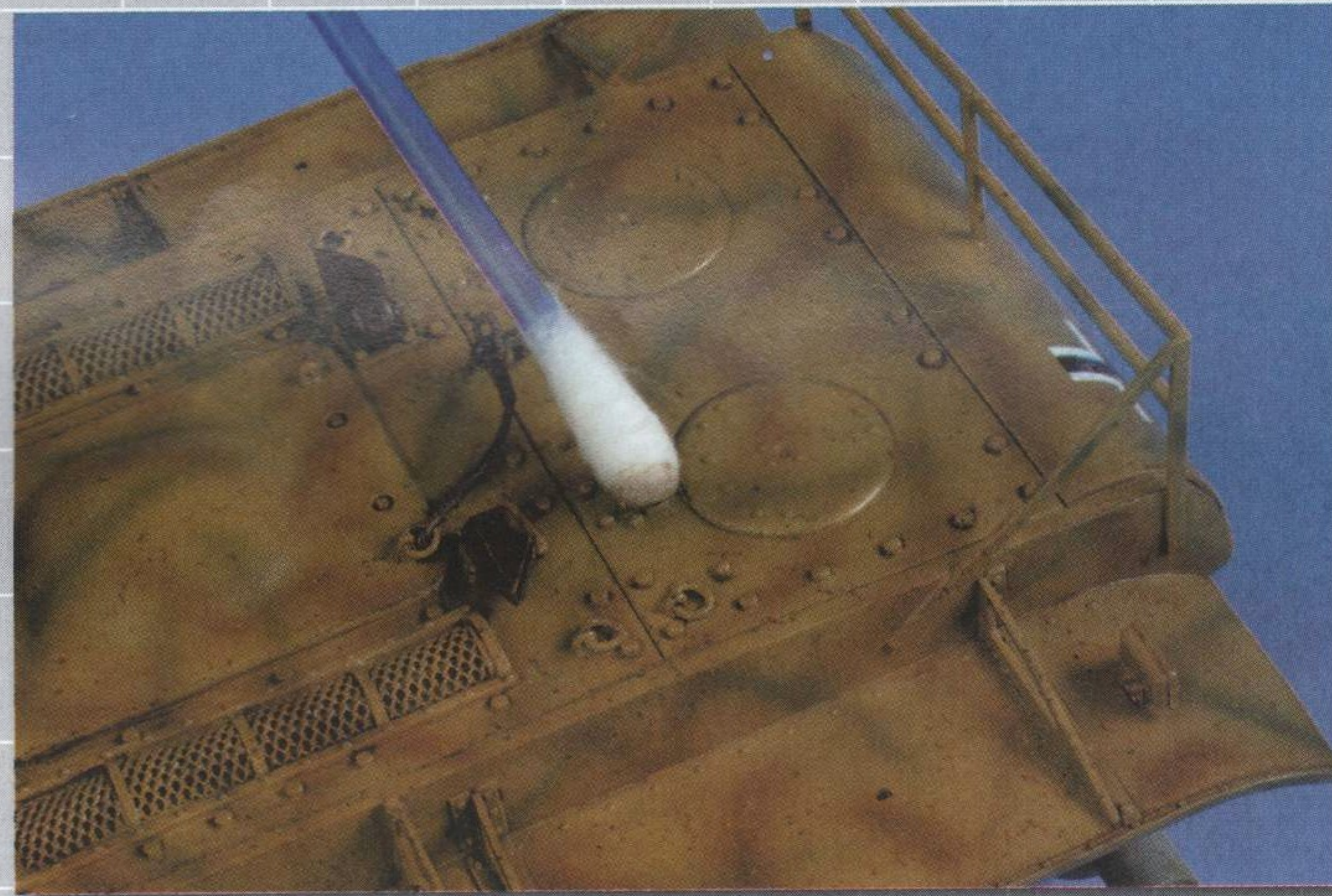


▲ The photograph in the book appears to show a diffuse camouflage pattern on the tank of green and red brown bands, although this could be the result of shadows cast by surrounding foliage. I decided to air brush a pattern in Olivgrün and Rotbraun from the Lifecolor set. In my opinion the colours are far to dark for a scale effect and so I lightened them by decanting Sandgrau into Olivgrün and Rotbraun bottles. The model was then given several light coats of Johnson Wax Klear floor polish to build up a gloss surface to protect the paint work and prepare the model for decal application.

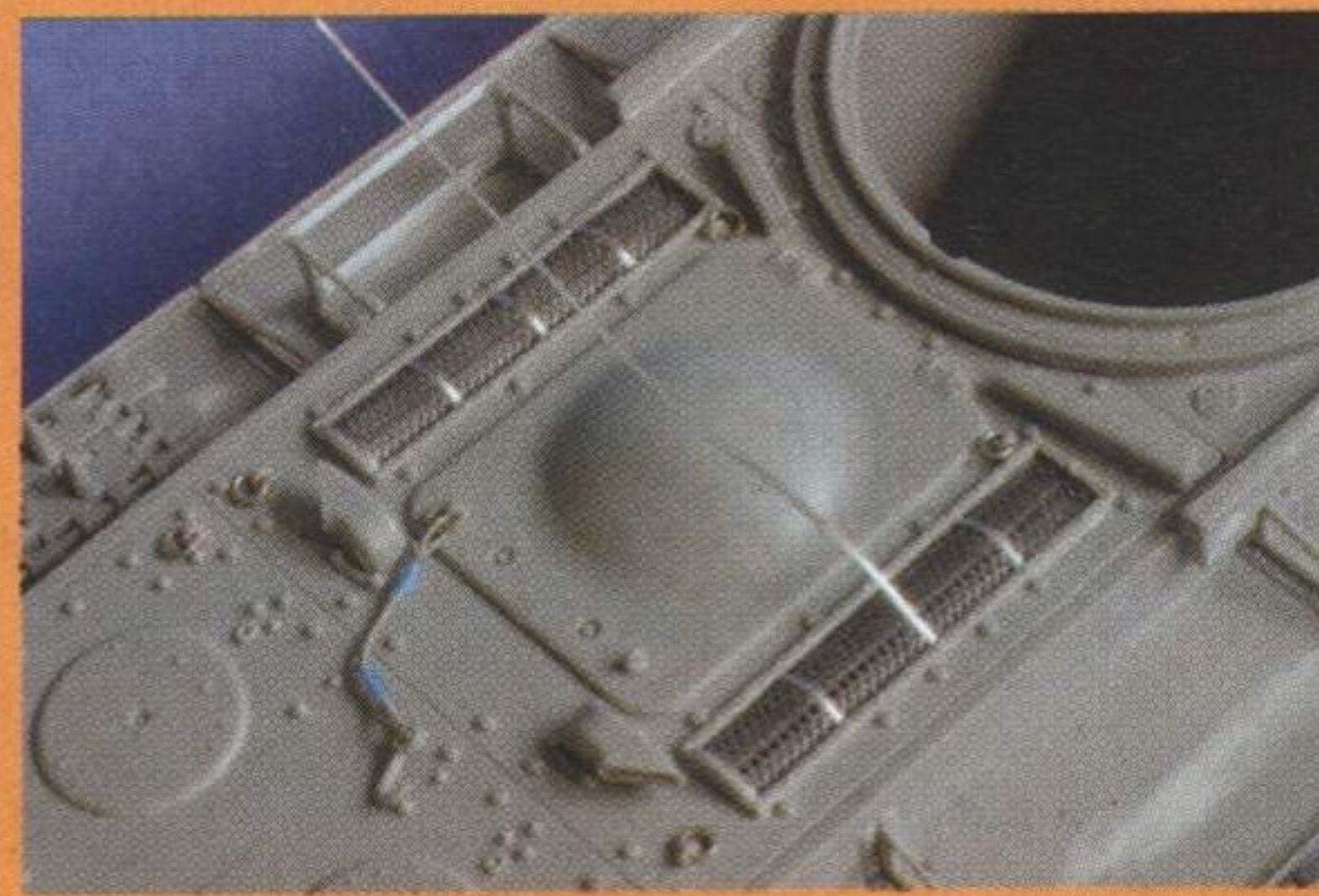
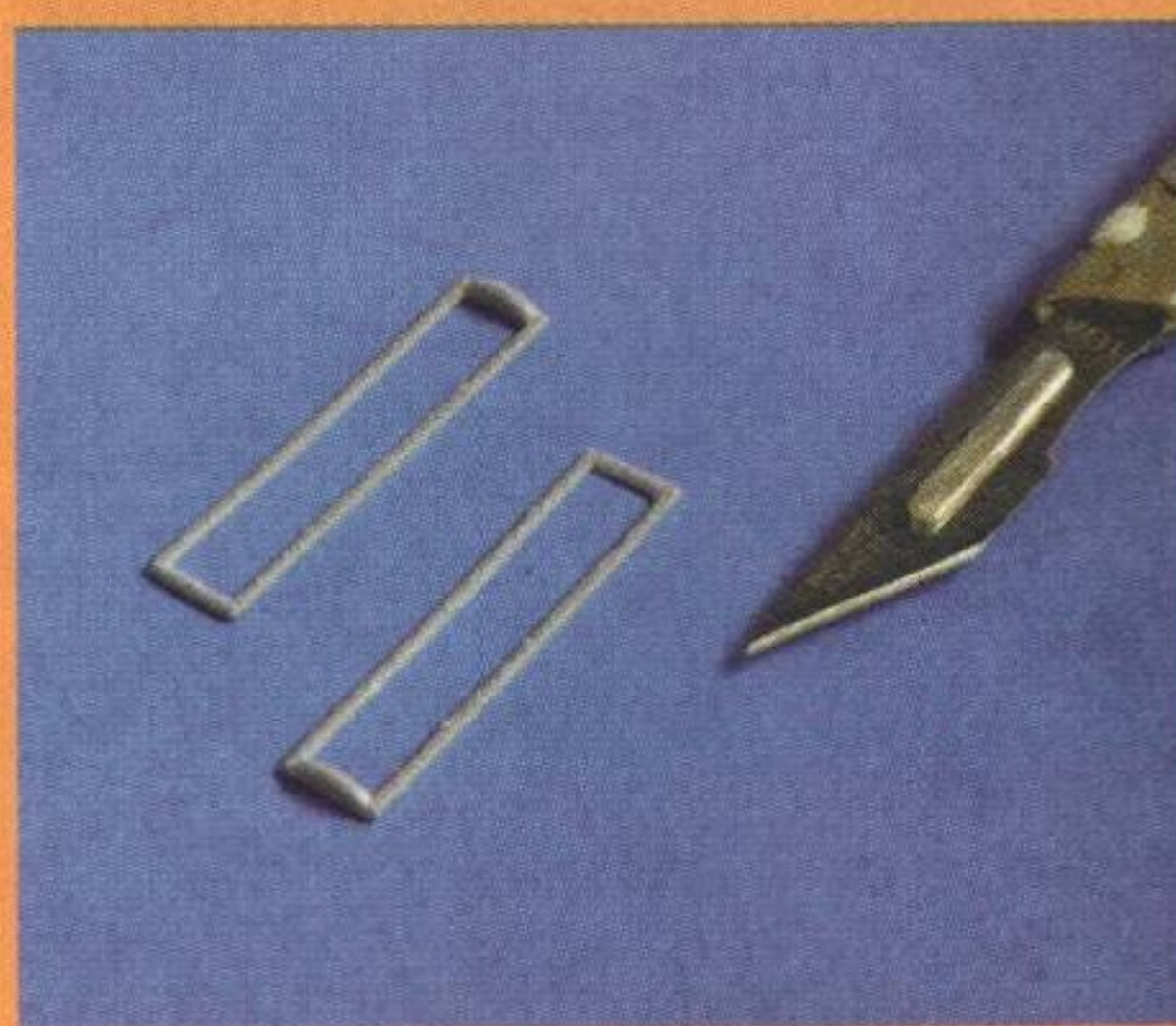
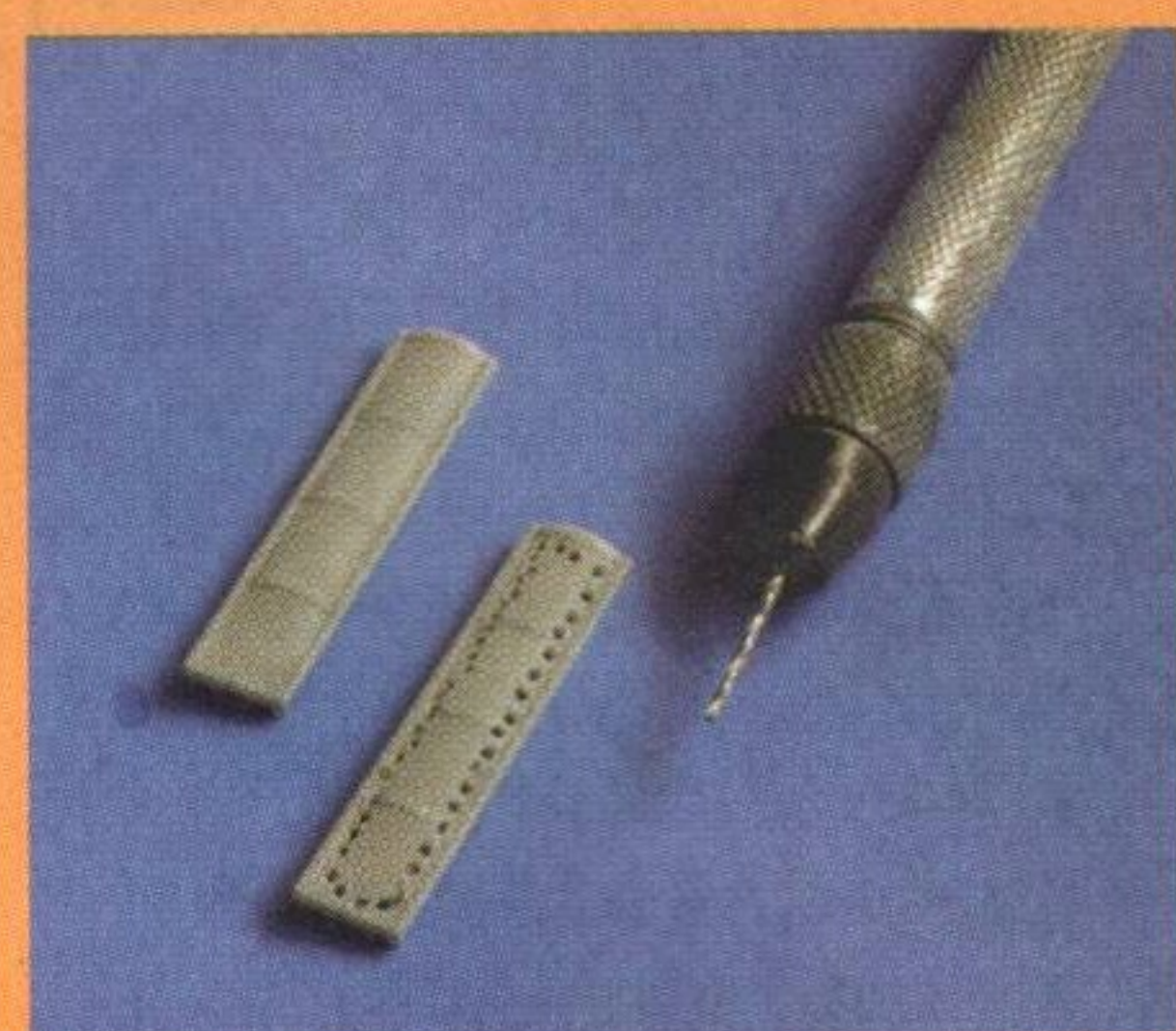
▲ Because of the cast texture I had applied to the turret, I used an application of Microsol decal solution. The effect of the solution can be quite alarming, causing the surface to wrinkle. Don't be tempted to interrupt the process. As the decal dries it will regain its shape as the solution draws the decal firmly down around the texture of the turrets sides, giving a painted on look. When the decals have completely dried a fine application of Klear is delivered through the airbrush to protect and seal the decals into position.



▲ The first stage in weathering the hull sides is to try and break up the monotonous appearance of the hull sides. To begin the weathering, I used a chisel edge brush loaded with a dark earth colour made from Humbrol Enamels, and then flicked the paint from the brush by drawing the bristles back and then releasing them. Different effects can be achieved depending on how much you thin the paint. If you are not pleased with the effect the paint can be easily wiped from the gloss varnished model.

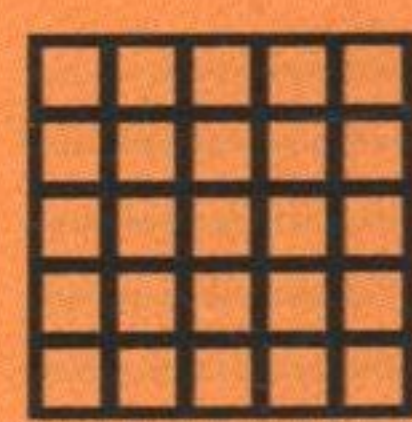


▲ Moving to the upper surfaces of the model, all the bolt heads weld seams and panel detail are highlighted with a wash of Sepia oil paint. When the laborious task has been finished, any excessive applications or tide marks can be cleaned away with a cotton bud soaked in white spirit.



Tech tip.

When Trumpeter first released their KV-1 kits there were no dedicated photo etch sets available. As I had already had success adapting Eduard's photo etch set for Eastern Express KV models to fit Trumpeters KV-1 Ekranami, I expected the engine air intake grilles for Trumpeter's model to be produced in the same way, simply replacing the kit parts. This is not the case, and the modeller has to remove each of the four integrally moulded screens from the kit part D9 in order to use the intake screens for the etch set designed for the Trumpeter kit. I decided to remove all the integrally moulded screen and replace the cross braces with metal foil. A series of holes were carefully drilled around the edge of each intake. The part is then taped to the work bench and with fingers out of the way, a series of cuts is made between each hole to separate the unwanted areas from the frame. When this has been completed, the postage stamp thickness edge has to be cleaned. Once in place, the air intake frames look very good. The horizontal cross braces have been added using strips cut from the metal foil of a tomato puree tube.



Tech Guide - 1:35 Eastern Express KV-14 (SU I52)

Modelspec

1:35 Eastern Express KV-14 (SU I52) Kit No. N35103

Materials

Injection moulded light grey coloured styrene and water slide decals for one tank.

Paints and pigments used

To finish Trumpeter's KV-1 756(r) I painted the AFV in a blend of Lifecolor Gelbbraun UA 203 and Tamiya Acrylics XF-2 Flat White thinned with Tamiya X-20A Thinner. To paint the camouflage pattern I used Lifecolor Olivgrün UA 206 and Rotbraun UA 205 considerably lightened with Gelbbraun and Flat White. To weather the model, I used localised washes of Rowney Artists Oil Colour Sepia Series B 251, applied around bolt heads and details. Artist's pastels dark brown and black were used for soot effects around the exhaust stacks. MIG Europe Dust P028 and Russian Earth P034 used individually and blended together, were applied on the tracks and drive train. Wear, rust and 'chipping' were simulated using artist's pencils all from CARAN d'ACHE range, Black 009, Flame Red 050 Prismalo 999. 249 'Green' and Supracolour 1 3999.498 'Silver.' Humbrol paints and white spirit were used to paint the figures. A coat of Johnson's Klear was used to seal the paint work in preparation for decal application. When the model and figures had been completed, a coat of Daler-Rowney Soluble Varnish Matt was applied with an airbrush.

Accessories used

Some items from Eduard Etch Brass set 35 824 KV-1 Model 1942 were used, (a set designed for the KV-1 756(r) may now be available), Karaya Tow Cables for KV-1. Friulmodel KV-1/KV-2 Tracks ATL-10. The figures were modified from Wolf, Verlinden and Tahk ranges all with replacement heads from Hornet. Bed rolls and stowage are from the CMK and Verlinden ranges.

References used

KV-1 Soviet Heavy Tank of WWII - Late Variants, Tankograd-Soviet Special No 2003. by Jochen Vollert. ISBN 4 196477 314958 52003. available from Aviation & Military Book Centre, Unit K, Basin Bridge Farm, Stoke Golding, Warwickshire. CV13 6JJ. Tel: 01455 214900

✓ An excellent model. The kit is supplied with vinyl or link and length tracks and so has a broad market appeal. The model is attractively packaged with a four colour camouflage and markings profile and is a bargain, at half the price of a comparable kit it from Tamiya or Dragon.

✗ As far as I am aware, only one KV-1 was converted in the field to the kits configuration. If the model is based on the only known photograph, then a stowage rack, dummy driver's visor and turret lifting lugs are missing.

Available from

Trumpeter's German Pz.Kpfm KV-1 756(r), and Eduard Etch Brass purchased from LSA Model Mail Order Tel: 01273 705420.

Aber, MIG Weathering Powders, Friulmodel Tracks, Wolf, Verlinden, Hornet figures, purchased from Historex Agents Tel: 01304 206720.

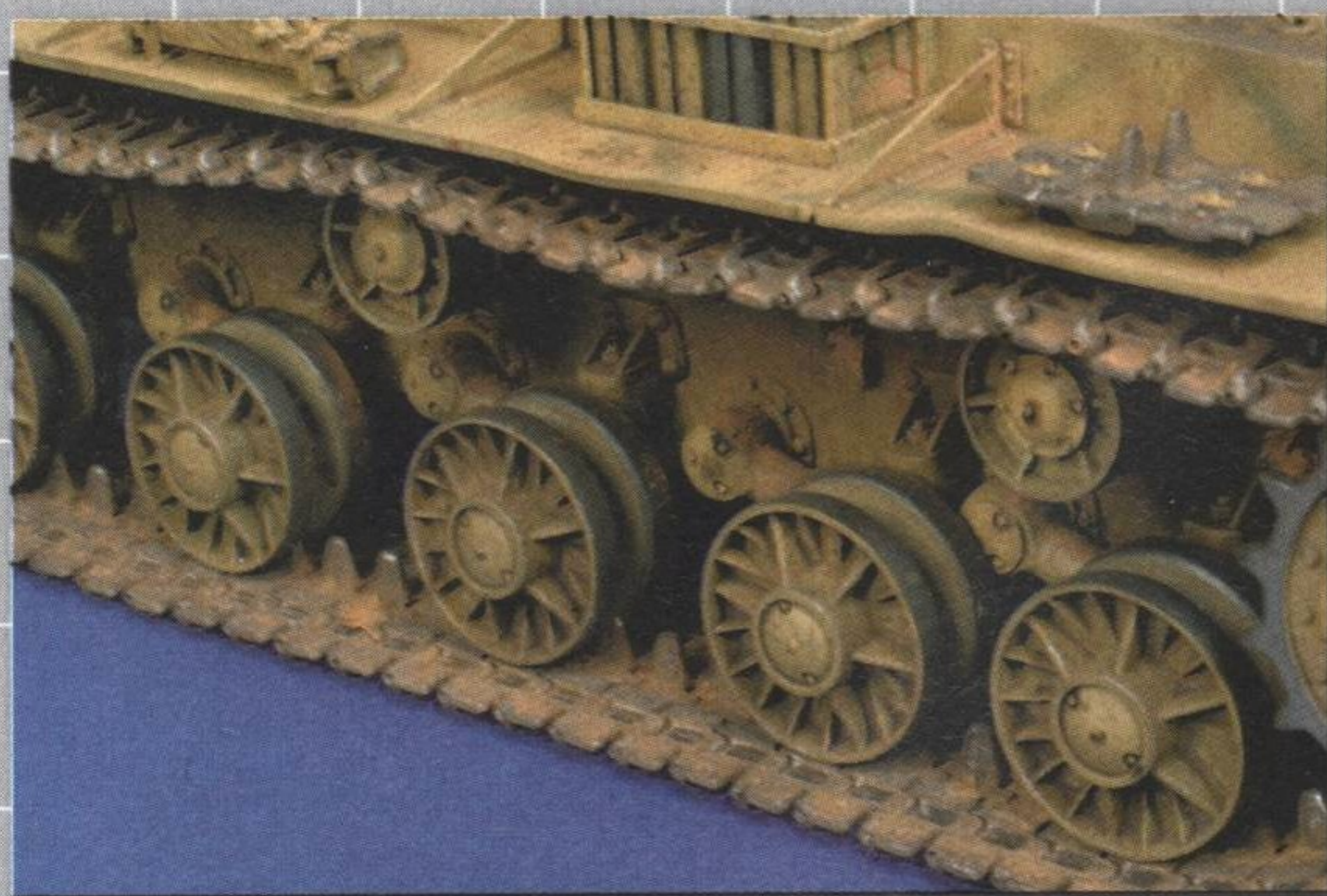
Tahk figures available from AFV Modeller Ltd. 176 Newbridge Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 2TE. Tel: 0191 209 1107.

CMK range is available from Hannants, Harbour Road, Oulton Broad, Lowerstoft, Suffolk. NR32 2LZ Tel: 01502 517444.

Karaya Tow Cables available from Accurate Armour Tel: 01475 743 955.

CARAN d'ACHE Pencils, Rowney Artists Oil Colour and Daler-Rowney Soluble Varnish Matt available from most high street Art Stores. There may be problems obtaining Humbrol Metal Cote and paints, as the company is currently in receivership.

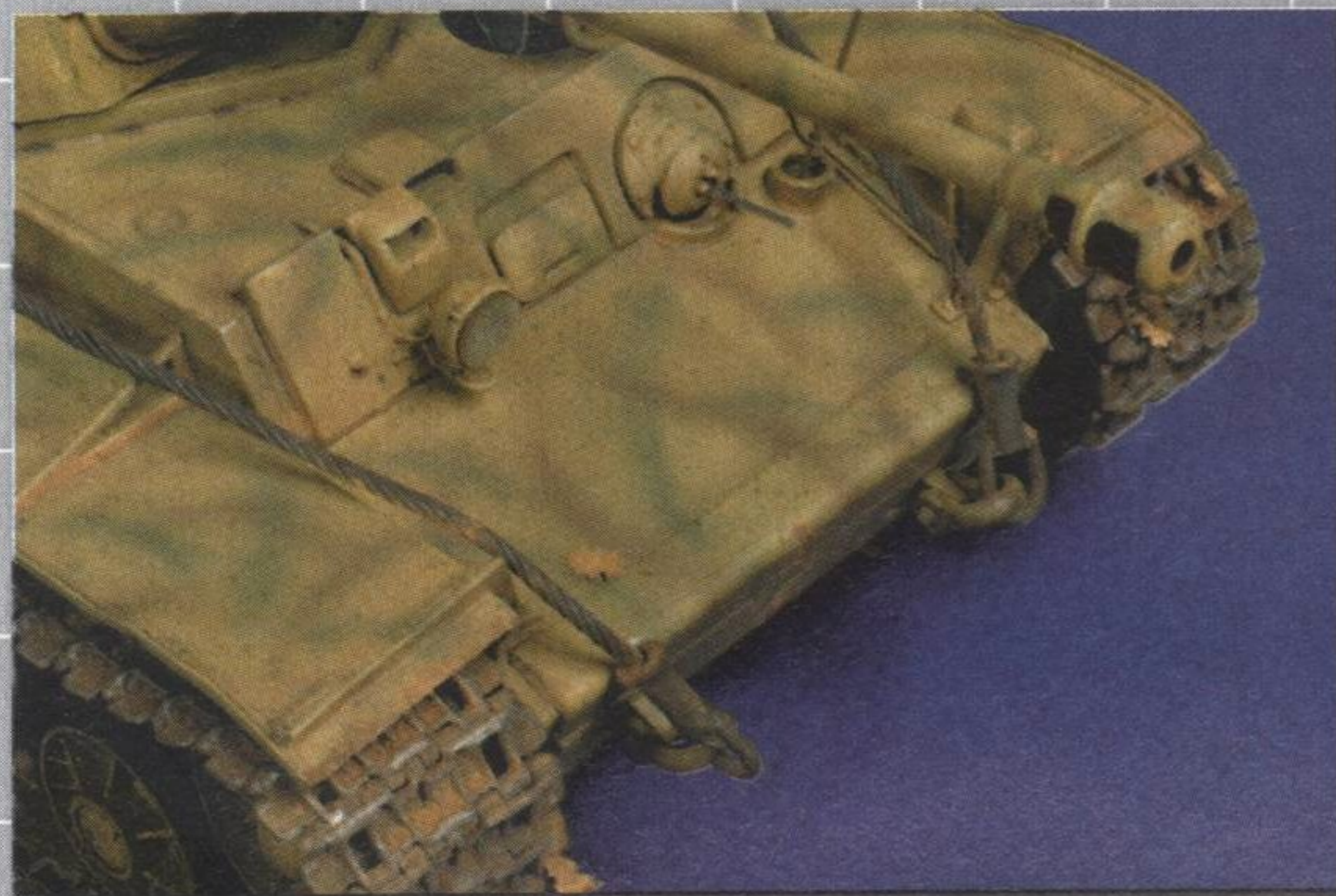
Rating ●●●●●●●●○○



▲ To get the realistic grimy finish on the running gear, a combination of Mig Europe Dust and Russian Earth was applied followed by rubbing pencil graphite on to contact areas, such as the guide horns.



▲ The stowage on the engine deck adds that much needed personal touch to the vehicle. Don't forget when adding stowage it is important that it is tied down and secured, otherwise it will all disappear after the first jolt.



▲ The tow cables used on the author's model are from Karaya. These soft copper cables are much easier to work with than the equivalent brass cable.



▲ The crew figures made using a combination of parts from Verlinden, Wolf and Tahk with replacement heads from Hornet.

"The kit is well detailed and I particularly liked the internal episcopes detail of the commander's cupola"





Jean Sourcy describes in detail how he created this imaginative diorama.

THE TRASH OF ONE MAY BE THE TREASURES OF ANOTHER...

This type of project often starts with a brainstorm. Returning home after seeing a friend, having on hand the Dragon BMP-1 that I got through a friendly exchange, I took out the TMMI edition where the article from John Murphy was featured. Seeing the Soviet vehicles all lined up like in a parade, abandoned after having been used, I decided to use this half constructed kit to make what I thought would make an interesting diorama. Two months later and a couple of sleepless nights, I landed at the local exposition with this piece called 'The Trash of One May Be the Treasures of Another'...Here is its story.

A FEW LINES FOR A LONG HISTORY

The Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan in December of 1979 hoping to stabilize the political situation. Brejnev decided to

use the same tactics that were successful in Hungary (1956) and in Czechoslovakia (1968), in order to replace a hostile government in the eyes of Moscow by a more docile one. They were in for a really big surprise as the people there didn't accept Moscow ruling and fought back. The adventure in Afghanistan finished in the beginning of 1989, the same year that the majority of the communist regimes of the Warsaw pact disintegrated and the Berlin wall fell. A few years later, the Soviet Union collapsed and Afghanistan fell into history.

The Commander Massoud seized power in 1992 but a violent civil war broke out between different militia and the warlords for control of the territory. The arrival of the Taliban to power made headlines for a few days in 1996 and was forgotten by the media until the events of September 2001.

As the red army retreated,

they left behind large quantities of firearms, tanks and APCs that thanks to a certain local ingenuity, served all the factions for many years. Yet, little by little, the fleet became exhausted and the skeletons accumulated. The fact that the vehicles were emptied out of all useful parts and left to dry out in the sun was the concept behind this scene.

UN-BUILDING THE KITS

An important thing to consider once you start a project such as this, is that to show an abandoned tank or destroyed vehicle implicates much more construction than imagined. Here are a few important steps.

It all starts with good references. Pictures of different soviet tanks can be found on the Internet, whether they be in museums or dead in combat, and books can provide you with even

more detailed information. Books written such as the one by Steve Zaloga can be very useful. In the present case, the article of John Murphy supplied me with much of the information that was required, but even so too much was never enough for me.

On a practical approach, an important ingredient for all scratch builds, is that you need plenty of various plastic sheet and extrusions of different thicknesses and shapes. To represent cable knots, nothing is better than to use an original cable. To be more precise, a microphone cable gives a realistic scales impression due to the finesse of the way that it is twisted.

The logical way to build is to start from the inside-out, from the floor to the ceiling. First I've constructed the various suspension covers and transmission holding bars. Then

come the partitions and firewalls. A lot of dry-fitting was necessary in order to close the two halves of the hull when installing the inside walls, so I didn't end-up with too many gaps to fill. After that came all the small details such as pipes, pumps and cables tray. Before I closed the hull I opened the trap doors and removed the top. This, in itself, will determine what the spectator will see inside the model. It is of no use to spend two nights completing the springs underneath the captain's seat should they barely see the head-rest.

On the other hand, you should pay special attention to outstanding details. For example, the crenulation's of the turret of the BTR-70 or the rear doors of the BMP-1 originally were fuel tanks. Besides, all that is left of an abandoned tank is mechanical elements, partitions and bundles of wire. As opposed to a destroyed tank where all of its interior has been blown-out.

For these two models, I use a secret recipe, a kit sold by AMT ERTL who is well known for their 1:24 car models. It is a kit of motor pieces, pistons, carburettors and different pieces necessary to make a garage diorama in 1:24. But the different pumps that make up this kit are of very good use in our case to represent the different abandoned mechanical elements.

THE JOY OF FREE-PAINTING...

What I mean by free-painting is the difference between a functional model tank where in spite of its wear, the colour remains more or less intact, as opposed to the paint on a vehicle that is left to

the mercy of the elements during a long enough period of time without any maintenance or simply not used will tend to fade heavily. Obviously, all metal parts that are exposed or burnt, oxidizes rapidly creating large spots of rust. Once again, the fact of having good documentation shows all of its importance.

To achieve this effect I started with a Tamiya Fine surface primer which gives me a harmonious colour on the entire model. Then for good pre-shading, I used the 036 Mahogany from Vallejo Air, an ideal colour for creating rust. I then coated the model with a coarse salt paste that I used as a mask. I waited approximately 24 hours before I applied the wanted base colour, then I scraped off the salt and hence instant, random rust spots.

I used the Vallejo Air 006 Cam light green for the primary colour. It was mixed with 002 yellow, 005 interm blue and 001 white, again from the Vallejo Air range. Sometimes I even mixed some of the yellow and blue to get the desired green. The sidewalls and the ceilings were painted white, the floors were painted the same colour as the exterior of the kits. The outside shade tend to go on the yellow side of the green rather than the blue, so when I mixed my paint, I started with the yellow and added the green or the blue after. That way, the colour will stay on the light side and you won't have to use all your yellow to brighten an already very dark colour.

The rest of the weathering was of more traditional filter wash and dry-brush. Again, I used a mix of



The flaked and rusted exterior was achieved by first coating the model in Vallejo Model Air Mahogany. This was followed by a random paste of salt solution before spraying on various greens and yellows. The paste is then removed to leave large rust patches, then the weathering can really begin.



Unlike modelling a battle damaged or destroyed vehicle, detailing a stripped out vehicle requires a completely different approach. As the author describes in the text, good reference and lots of plastic card are essential.



To detail the stripped out interiors and, in this case, the engine bay of the BTR-70, the author made good use of a 1:24 car modelling set. This consists of various mechanical components, ideal for 'busing' these areas. 1:24 car engine parts are perfect for larger components in 1:35 armour.



The author has captured the distinctive faded yellow-green so familiar in the photos that have been published of all the abandoned Soviet armour that still litters the Afghan countryside.



The villager's hand cart was constructed from Evergreen plastic strip and a set of Italeri Kubelwagen wheels from the spares box, and lastly a lot of imagination.



Although very time consuming to make, paint and weather, it is the smaller details, such as the small rusting bed side locker and coil of barbed wire that truly bring the scene to life.



As no commercial figure was available for the pose the author had in mind, he set about scratchbuilding the figure he needed. The old bed was made from a combination of copper wire and plastic card strip.



The goat came from the Douglas Lee range of resin figures and animals. The author had to heavily modify it to better suit the scene he had in mind.

blue and yellow oil paint for the filters to tone up or down certain area of the kits. The washes were done with burnt sienna straight from the tube as it was as close as I wanted to the rust tone I needed.

Once the interior painted, the two halves of the model were glued together and the construction of the exterior was finished off. The work was a lot easier due to the fact that I took things off instead of adding on to. A few suspension pieces are kept, the episcopes are then withdrawn and their protection renewed using 0.10 thou plastic sheets, various bolts and

hinges completed the work. I then painted the exterior of the models the same way that I did for the interior insisting particularly on the yellow tone of the green.

THE BASE

In general I do the base with left over pieces of plywood followed by layers of Styrofoam until I have a desired thickness. I then glue the pieces together with water based contact glue because that type of glue does not melt the Styrofoam.

For my groundwork, I used Celluclay or instant paper maché. The secret with this stuff is to

add a generous dose of white glue when you are mixing it. This way it won't peel-off the edges and stick to your base once dry. Once the Celluclay was spread onto the Styrofoam, I sprinkled sand and little rocks found on the side of the road. I find this mixture less homogeneous than kitty litter or any other product sold in stores. I left the Celluclay bare to simulate packed earth such as the road. After about 45 minutes, the paste had hardened enough but was still soft to place the kits in position. I left them there for 15 to 30 minutes, enough time to let the

Celluclay dry to keep its shape but then, don't forget them because they'll be stuck there forever.

After a 48 hour of drying period, I painted the base with a XF-57 Buff mix with a XF-2 Flat White with each coat being paler than the one before. Once dry, I glued the models and different accessories with 5 minutes epoxy glue. Then I applied a randomly light layer of white glue and deposited pasture made up of hemp rope and dried grass which garnished the flower pots in an office.

In regards to the accessories, it was a pleasure to scratch build

them. The bed was made using copper wire for the head and the foot of the bed and the rest was done with a mixture of strips of plastic from Plastruct. The post was made using plastic tubing from Evergreen and the lamp was sold by Grandt Line for HO trains.

The rickshaws are the Sport Utility Vehicle that are very common in Afghanistan; we often see them in pictures taken from this country. The starting base was made with a set of wheels from an Italeri Kubelwagon found in one of my spares boxes, the rest being nothing more than Evergreen plastic strip.

THE HUMAN TOUCH

A beautiful diorama is often characterized using quality figurines. For my part, after a few years and plenty of experiments, I have decided to use as few commercial figurines as possible. The reason being that I had to often change my ideas on how the scenes would turn out because of the lack of suitable poses. I then

decided one day to modify them or as in this case, basically create them completely.

However the only exception was the head, in my opinion I used the best available and that was a Hornet head sculpted by the incredibly talented Roger Saunders. His talent combined with the vast choice that his firm offers to modellers makes it an obvious choice when starting scratch building figurines. The character

"I use a secret recipe, a kit sold by AMT ERTL, who are well known for their car models"

he gives to his sculpting not only allowed me to build the scene I thought of, but even let the idea go to a place I haven't imagined it could go.

I cannot say that it is easy creating your own figurines or even to make major changes on existing ones, but with some practice and one or two good books on the subject, the difficulties ease away and the fun begins! I will not get into all of the details, due to the

fact that it would take an article of its own, but I will try to summarize.

For starters, I created the skeleton using copper wire all the while respecting the anatomical proportions, such as the body is 7.5 to 8 times the height of the head. I then put the figurine into position. I paid special attention to the body axis so that they were in their proper place (knee, elbow or hip) and that all these joints were bent in a realistic way. For

example, it is the knee that bends and not the femur or the tibia that are rounded.

The second step consisted in creating the muscle using Tamiya Epoxy putty. This allowed me to have a base to make his clothes, also using Tamiya putty. I sculpted the cloths in the same manner as I dress in the morning, pants first, shirt after and then the vest. One piece of garment was sculpted in an evening, the other the next

and so on. That way the putty had time to dry. If your sculpting a vest for example and you put your thumb inadvertently on the pants, you won't squash those wrinkles and folds you so patiently created previously.

For sculpting I went with a wet and dry method. What it means is that I worked the putty when it was wet and malleable with tools that had more or less the shape of a needle. Then, I go back when it was dry using files and a Dremel rotary tool to do some touch-up.

The last step is the painting. I do prefer artist oil paints for plain cloth and civilian figures. The vast array of shades you can obtain out of a few basic colours is fantastic, but not everybody is at ease with them. From my point of view all the paints and techniques available today are good, it's the final result that counts, not necessarily how you got there.

It was a friend of mine, Frank Edet, who suggested that a goat should be added! I used a Douglas



Lee kit as a base but the devil being in the details, I made major modifications to change its breed and especially its position so that it fitted into the spirit of the diorama.

IN THE END...

After having glued all the elements to the scenery using 5 minutes Epoxy glue, I sprinkled it with different coloured powdered pastels and pastel paste dissolved in paint solvent. Once dry, I lightly brushed it with a soft brush to give it subtle effects such as the grey from certain stones or the accumulation of dust in the cracks and different angles of the vehicles.

There are many reasons to do a diorama. This piece counted three: a series of pictures taken in a magazine; a friendly exchange with a friend and a serious interest in Afghanistan itself. ■

Acknowledgements
To Franck Edet who took the pictures and Rachel Lacroix for the translation of this article.

Modelspec

1:35 Dragon BMP-1 kit No.3503
1:35 Dragon BTR-70 kit No.3510

Accessories used

Amt-Ertl Blueprinter parts-pack kit No.8158
Hornet HH-11 heads set
Doug's original Goat and Beagle kit No.35A03

Paints used

Tamiya Acrylics; XF-57 Buff, XF-2 Flat White, Fine Surface Primer.
Vallejo Model Air Acrylics; 036 Mahogany, 002 Yellow, 006 Cam Light Green
005 Interm blue, 001 White, 017 Russian Green.

Other Materials

Celluclay
Tamiya Epoxy Putty Smooth Surface
Evergreen Plastic Sheets and Extrusions
Plastruct Plastic Sheets and Extrusions

References

Soviet Wheeled Armoured Vehicles
Steven Zaloga, Concord Publication
ISBN 962-361-013-0
BMP Infantry Combat Vehicles
Steven Zaloga, Concord Publication
ISBN 962-361-006-8
Special Ops Vol. 35 Afghanistan Revisited
Yves Debay, Gordon Arthur, Concord Publication
ISBN 962-361-116-1
Tamiya Model Magazine International Issue No.109
November 2004
Brazhnev's Bone yard article By John Murphy

Available from

All good model shops.



Some of the inspiration for the author's diorama came from a photo report, which the Editor had published in Issue 109 of our sister magazine TMMI, featuring the mass of rusting Soviet vehicles left after the withdrawal of all their troops in 1989.



MEET THE AUTHOR

The day I crashed the entire collection of my dad's 1:72 aircraft was the day he decided to give me a kit to build by myself. I do not remember the day or even how old I was then, but I'm 37 years old now and I remember that this model was a 1:72 P-40 from Airfix and that it's still half-painted to this day.
Later, when I was in high-school, I discovered dioramas with the help of Sheperd Paine's book 'How to build dioramas' and since then, I've done my best to get my skills at the level of my imagination. ■

Since the Soviet Army pulled out of Afghanistan, the local populous have stripped these once feared war machines of every usable component.





References - The M198 Towed Howitzer

▼ From 15 to 19 January 2007, the Fires Squadron of the 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment conducted a live fire exercise at the Grafenwöhr Training Area in Germany. This 155mm M198 towed howitzer belongs to Cobra Battery. Note the M1A2 collimator in the foreground.

ARTILLERY HELL

Ralph Zwilling offers us some excellent reference on the US Army's M198 Towed Howitzer.

On 1 June 2006, the 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division was re-flagged as the 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment (SCR) "Dragoons" at Fort Lewis, Washington. At the same time, the former 2nd Armoured Cavalry Regiment at Fort Polk, Louisiana, was re-flagged as the 4th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division. The first 2 SCR vehicles arrived in Germany on 22 July 2006.

The mission of the field artillery is to destroy, neutralize, or suppress the enemy by cannon, rocket, and missile fires and to help integrate all fire support assets into combined arms operations. The howitzer battery is the basic firing element of the fires squadron. The battery's capability is enhanced through the flexibility and survivability provided under an organization based on platoons. The fires squadron, named the 5th Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, consists of a headquarters and service battery (HSB), three howitzer batteries, a

target acquisition platoon and the attached signal company.

The howitzer section fields a M1083A1 MTV truck, M1084A1 MTV truck, M1095 MTV trailer and a 155mm M198 towed howitzer. The M1083A1 truck is the howitzer prime mover while the M1084A1 ammunition truck, equipped with crane, is used to pull the M1095 MTV trailer. In the near future, the 2nd SCR's aging M198 howitzers will be replaced by the new M777A1 howitzer built by BAE systems. The battery or platoon fire direction centre (FDC) is the control centre, or brains of the gunnery team. The FDC personnel receive fire orders from the battalion FDC or calls for fire from observers and process that information into tactical and technical fire direction commands. The battery FDC performs the technical fire direction, while the battalion FDC performs tactical fire direction. If the battery FDC is operating without a battalion FDC, it conducts both tactical and technical fire direction by itself. The battery FDC receives the call

for fire and converts the request into firing data. The firing data is then sent to the howitzer sections as fire commands.

The howitzer's fire control equipment may be used by one or two crewmen for direct or indirect fire. The gunner is positioned on the left side and uses the M171 telescope and quadrant mount controls for traverse settings while the assistant gunner on the right side controls elevation setting by using the M172 telescope. The equipment can also be operated by a single gunner on the left side controlling both traversing and elevation settings. Furthermore, the sight systems include the M137 panoramic telescope and the M138 elbow telescope. All dials, reticles and counters on the fire control and accessory equipment are radioactively illuminated. The main gun can be elevated or depressed from +72 to -2 degrees respectively. The left/right traverse limits are 22.5 degrees. The published effective range is 22,400 metres with conventional

ammunition and 30,000 metres with M549A1 Rocket-Assisted Projectiles (RAP). The maximum rate of fire is 4 rounds per minute and the sustained rate is 2 rounds per minute or as determined by the thermal warning device. The M199 cannon is equipped with a double baffle muzzle brake to reduce recoil. The two pneumatic pull-type equilibrators are charged with compressed nitrogen gas. The recoil mechanism is a hydro-pneumatic dependent type with a variable recoil length. The maximum cross-country towed speed is 8 km/h and 72 km/h on paved roads. ■

Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Captain Travis Cox, Captain Timothy Gatlin, Mr. James W. Dirkse and the soldiers of the 5th Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment for their outstanding support.



▲ "Shot, Rounds Complete" – this gun fired a 155mm projectile on Range 260. The maximum rate of fire is 4 rounds per minute and the sustained rate is 2 rounds per minute or as determined by the thermal warning device.

▼ The howitzer section fields a M1083AI MTV truck, M1084AI MTV truck, M1095 MTV trailer and a 155mm M198 towed howitzer. The M1083AI truck is the prime mover for the 7,264kg howitzer while the M1084AI ammunition truck, equipped with a cargo handling crane, is used to pull the M1095 MTV trailer.





References - The M198 Towed Howitzer



▲ While two soldiers hold the loader tray another cannoneer rams the round into the cannon with the rammer staff. The 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment hasn't received the Rapid Fielding Initiative equipment, so you can still see a mix of Woodland Battle Dress Uniforms, Desert Camouflage Uniforms and the new Army Combat Uniforms.



▲ The gunner, positioned on the left, uses the M171 telescope and quadrant mounted controls to input traverse settings while the assistant gunner, on the right, controls elevation setting using the M172 telescope. The equipment can also be operated by a single gunner on the left side controlling both traversing and elevation settings.



▲ Each howitzer has a Radio Telephone Operator (RATELO) using an Advanced SINGARS Improvement Program (ASIP) radio mounted on the left trail. Note the Petzl light attached to the soldiers Army Combat Helmet.

▼ This picture shows the M17 fire control quadrant below, M171 telescope and quadrant mount in the middle and the M137 panoramic telescope above. Note the various warning signs and the two hand-wheels.



▲ This photo shows the left side of the M198 towed howitzer to advantage. The large hand-wheel in the middle is used for elevating the gun while the small wheel to the right is for traversing. Note the M90 chronograph antenna mounting bracket at the forward end of the cradle as well as the large recoil mechanism.





▲ The cradle and the breech of the 155mm M198 towed howitzer in detail. The effective range is reported as 22,400 metres with conventional ammunition and 30,000 metres with M549AI Rocket-Assisted Projectiles (RAP). Note the coarse azimuth scale below the breech.



▲ A firing baseplate, normally transported between the left and right trails, is mounted below the M39 carriage assembly. Note the taillight assembly which is usually attached to the muzzle during convoy operations outside the training areas.



▲ The left wheel mount in detail. Note the manual handbrake mechanism and the tyre tread pattern.



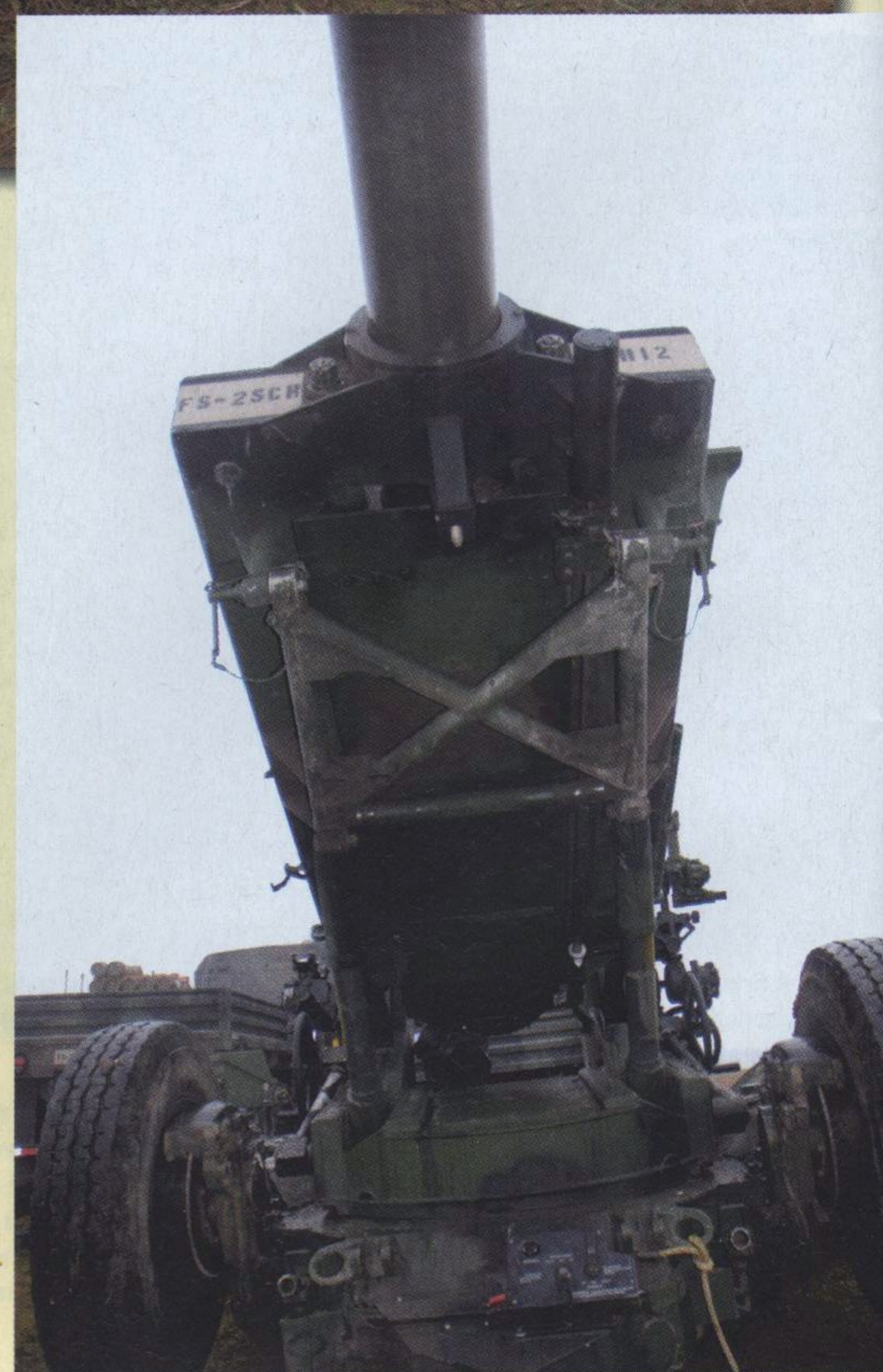
References - The M198 Towed Howitzer



▶ The ASIP radio is fitted to the left trail with a special shock absorbing mount. The swab and water bucket are used to swab the breach of smouldering residue before reloading.



▶ The air/oil brake system is located on the inside of the right trail. Note the battery box and the brake pre-check system mounted on top of the trail as well as the black service and emergency hose assemblies.



▶ The travel lock assembly and the underside of the gun cradle. Note the bumper code in front of the gun cradle.



▲ The travel lock assembly and the underside of the gun cradle. Note the bumper code in front of the gun cradle.



▲ The Family of Medium Tactical Vehicle (FMTV) provides the U.S. Army's backbone for tactical unit mobility and logistics support throughout the battlefield. The 9,433kg M1083AI MTV truck is used to pull the M198 howitzer. The 330hp, electronically controlled, 6-cylinder, Caterpillar C7 diesel engine with fuel injection, turbocharger and aftercooler provides a maximum speed of 94km/h. Note the mount for the driver's vision enhancer attached to the front of the cab.



▲ The ammunition is stored on the cargo bed without any special racks or mounts.

How to Build Tamiya's Steel Wheeled Tiger I



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'SKYRAKER'

Keith Goldsworthy looks at Italeri's recently released Crusader AA tank. But is it as good as he hoped?

This latest incarnation of the Italeri Crusader follows on from their releases of the gun tank versions of the vehicle. This variant has not been available in plastic before this release although Accurate Armour produces a conversion kit designed to convert the gun tank versions.

The first Crusader (Mk III) was released in 1976. Sprue A of the AA kit is common to this 1976 release and all other releases since. Sprues B&C have been modified to incorporate the parts unique to the AA version. Despite the age of the moulds there is very little flash and that which is present is easy to remove. Some parts do suffer from unfortunately placed pin marks (particularly on the turret ring). For a reason I cannot explain some of the newer parts are not as well moulded as the older ones with some mould seams requiring careful removal.

241 parts are moulded in dark green plastic supplemented by vinyl tracks and the expected decal sheet. Markings are provided for three different vehicles including the much photographed 'Skyraker' of the 7th Armoured Division. Modellers will need to check their references when using the decals to ensure correct placement and accuracy of the printed material.

Italeri have had a good reputation for fine detail in the kits. This one is no exception with weld seams finely moulded and individual grab handles provided. The one feature I do like with the Crusader kits is the way that

Italeri model the running gear and suspension units. Each suspension arm is sandwiched between the inner side panel of the lower hull and a separate outer panel. With some very minor plastic surgery the arms can be made to articulate.

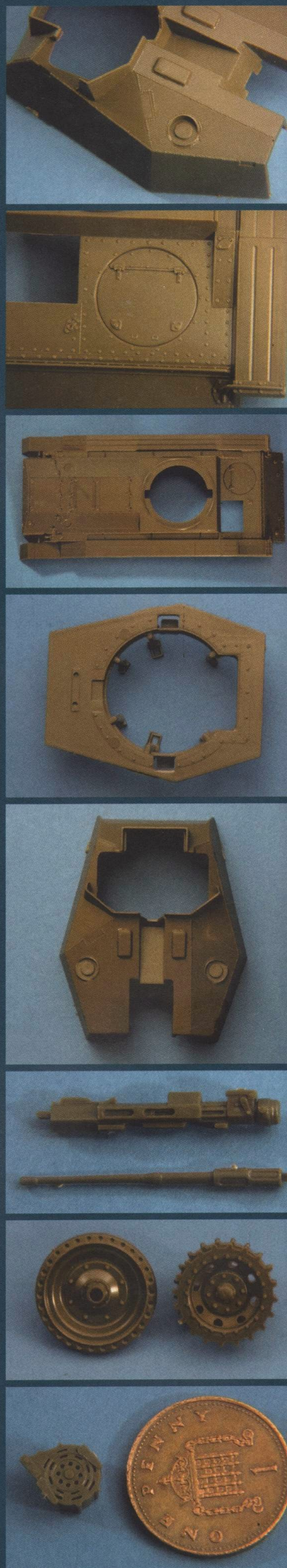
The turret seems to be reasonably well proportioned, although, when compared with the Accurate Armour turret, there does seem to be some differences in the angles of the panels. These are not differences worth getting too worked up about though. Period photographs and other references show only one rectangular roof extension adjacent to the midline of the turret roof and not the two that Italeri depict (did they have access to the MkII turret as this has the two roof extensions). It is easy to remove the extra extension with some careful sanding (the accompanying photos show which one does not belong). Some parts are provided to dress the interior of the turret. The turret ring has some very nice detail but is spoilt by ejection marks which will be difficult to remove while preserving the detail.

One area where the kit lets itself down is the Oerlikon gun detail. The breech sections (moulded separate from the barrels) have unfortunately placed pin marks which would be difficult to remove. However, given the breech sections are contained within the turret they would be easy to hide. The barrels themselves suffer from some flash along their lengths. The

muzzle flashes also need drilling out to improve the look. There are two other options available to the modeller to overcome the inadequacies of the guns. The first would be to source some suitable aftermarket item, perhaps from Accurate Armour or cover the guns with canvas as seen on several photos when the vehicle is in transit. Although this could be seen as a bit of a cop-out on the part of the modeller it would not look out of place in the right scenic setting. The ammo drums for the Oerlikons are reasonably well detailed. The sighting mechanism provided is over scale and would need replacing. Fortunately Eduard have come to the rescue by providing this part in their etched set designed for this vehicle (No. 35 867). This set also includes parts to enhance the interior, replace fenders, aerial mounts, straps, tool clamps etc.

Overall this kit will please many an allied modeller. The aftermarket etched sets should be considered to enhance the kit. I would suggest careful observation of reference material is used when building the kit to ensure correct placement of decals, etc. Also I have not seen any 'combat' photographs showing the auxillary fuel tank in place. This is provided in the kit and shown as an alternative in the instructions.

As I finish the review there are rumours that Accurate Armour are planning to provide some parts from their own conversion set to update the kit. There does not appear to be anything on their web site as yet. ■





GOLDEN SOVEREIGN

Keith Goldsworthy checks out the latest resin kit from Sovereign 2000 and without giving the game away, it looks really good...

The latest kit to be released by Sovereign 2000 (S2K) is another welcome addition to an ever increasing range of Allied, and in particular British, vehicles that are currently available. Marc Day, proprietor of S2K, has spent a considerable time creating the master for this kit of the Humber Mk 1 Armoured Car. It is important to note that this is a completely new kit and not to be confused with the Humber Armoured Car previously available from S2K. Marc informs me that the only common parts are the tyres which I must admit were probably the best parts from the older kit!

The kit is supplied in a stout cardboard box with 90 or so parts contained in plastic bags and wrapped in bubble wrap. The vast majority of parts are cast in resin with a smaller number cast in white metal (and not a single piece of etched brass in sight!). None of the parts in the sample provided showed signs of casting defects such as air bubbles. Apart from some carrier resin to remove clean up of the parts would be minimal.

The hull is supplied as a solid block of resin with a circular

recess ready to accept the separate hollow turret which will accept a suitable half figure. There is a resin over pour at the rear of the hull. There is some rivet detail in close proximity to this excess resin so careful removal is required to preserve this detail. The single piece hull does simplify construction without compromising detail in any way. There is some excess resin (a result of the casting process) on a rear corner of the turret that will require careful removal.

Items such as mudguards are provided as separate pieces and carry some very subtle rivet detail that will be brought to life with some careful painting. This high degree of detail is carried onto the turret hatches which are detailed inside and out.

The smaller resin parts will require careful removal from their carriers. Some parts are particularly fine and therefore fragile (e.g. the towing lugs). POW cans are provided contained within their metal racking (i.e. all cast as one piece). Personally I would have preferred the two items to be somehow cast separately to allow the modeller more freedom in the final finish

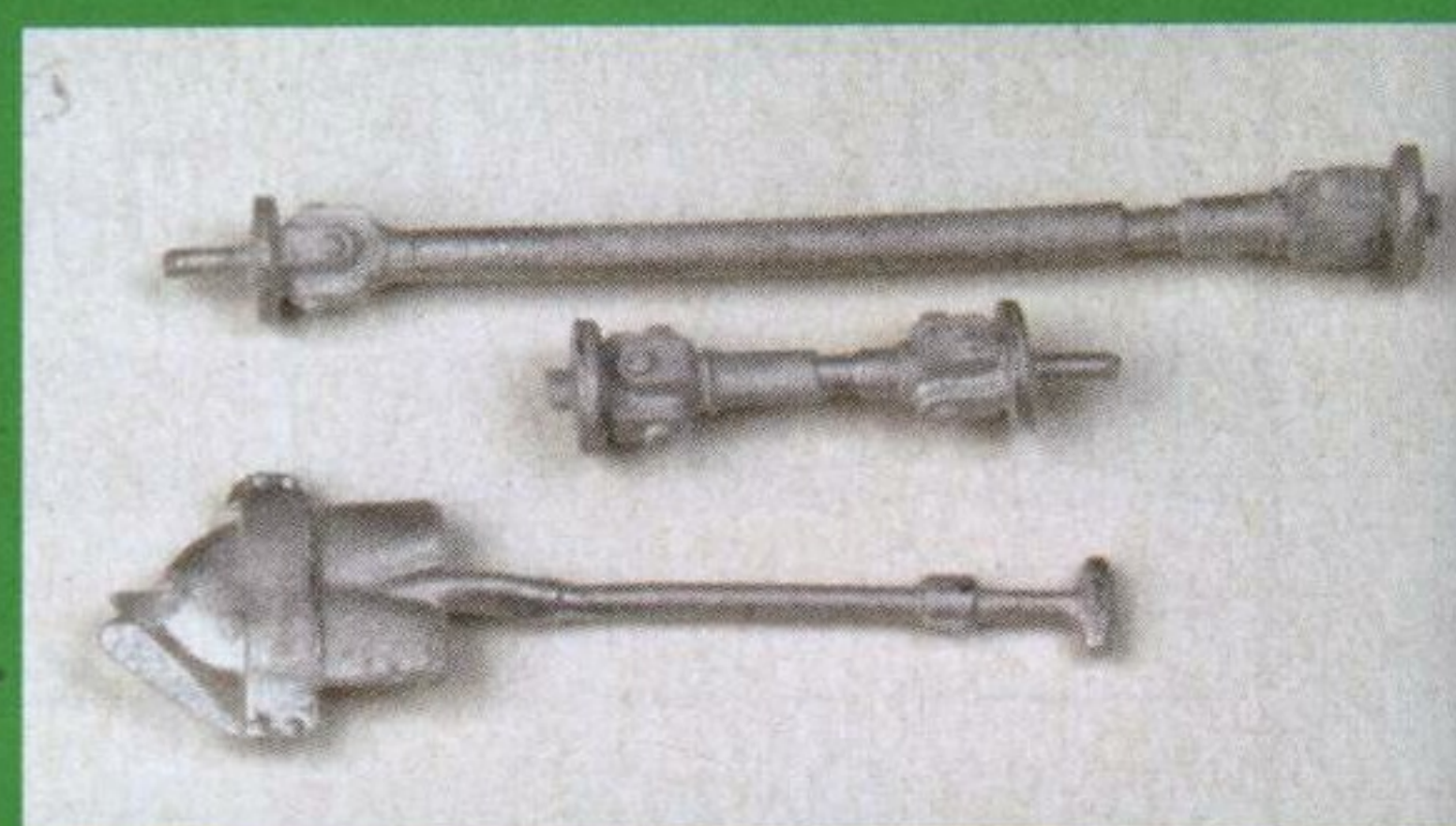
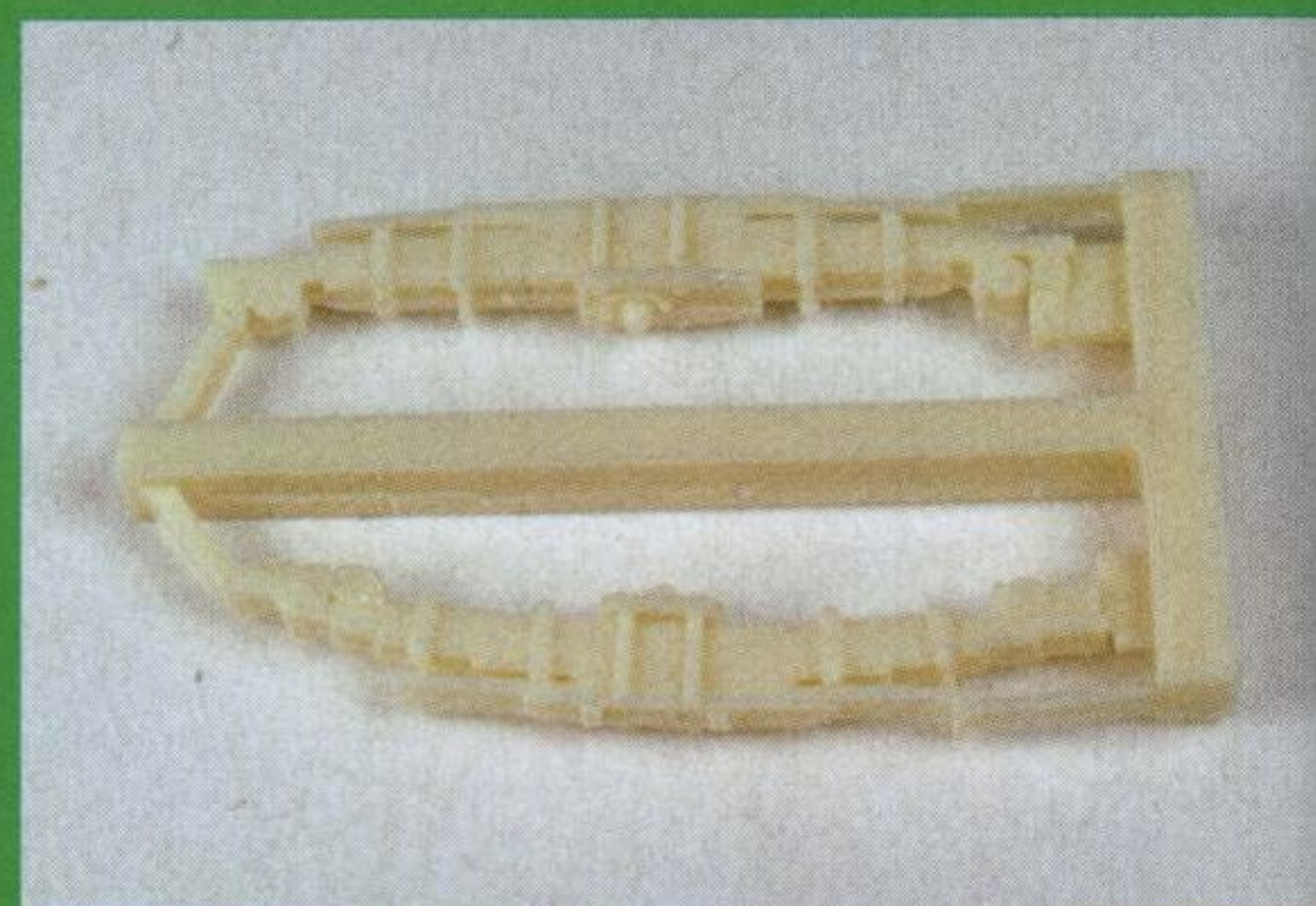
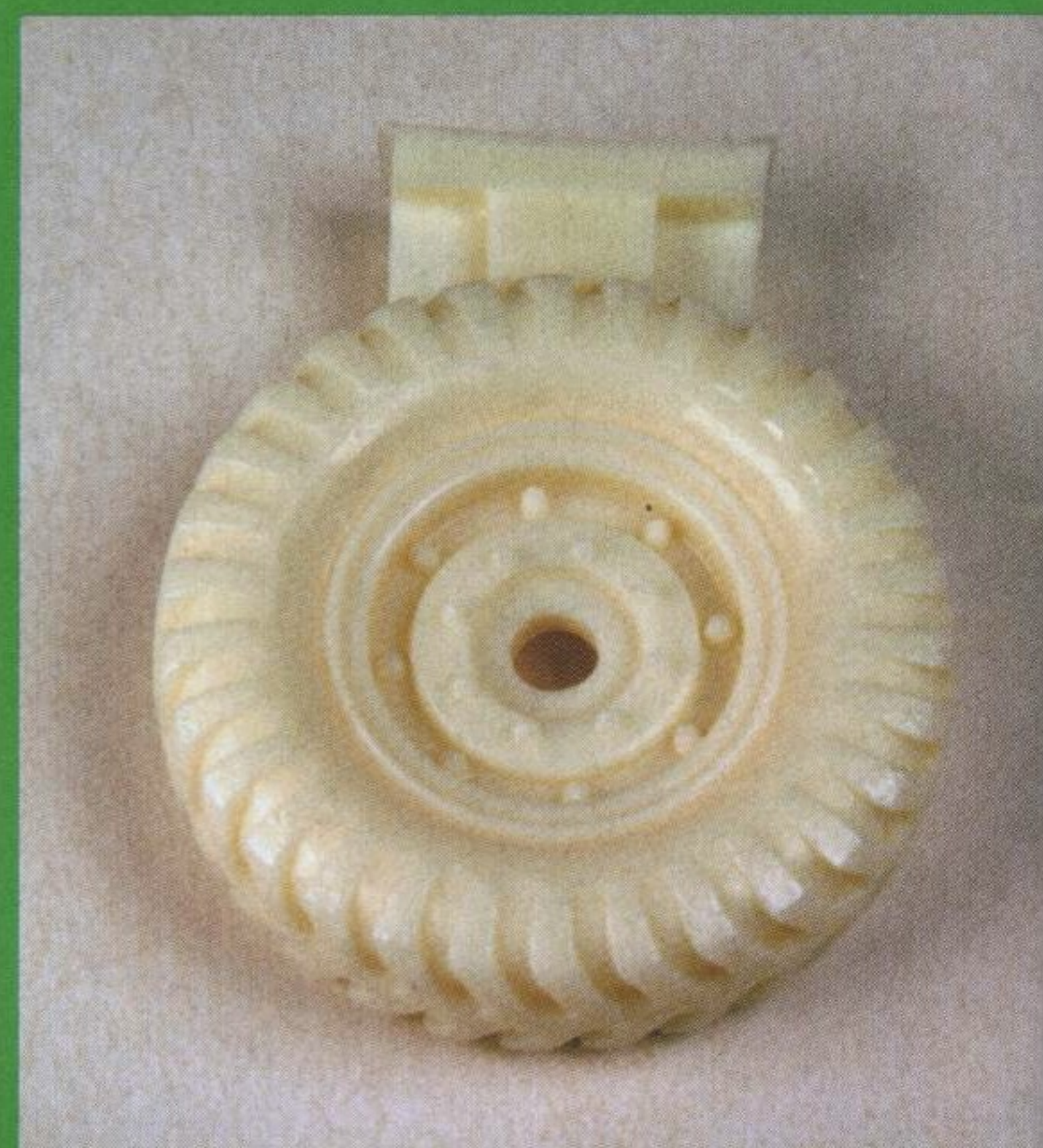
of the vehicle. However, this is a very minor criticism and the actual parts provided are very well detailed.

Some parts are described as optional (such as stowage boxes) and therefore good reference photographs would be ideal to ensure correct configuration. No decals are provided and so need to be sourced from the spares box or from the plethora of aftermarket decals available.

The axles and springs are models in their own right. The front units are designed to allow the wheels to be deflected. Centre hubs of the wheels are provided as separate items. Care is required with these as the front and rear items do differ slightly. The shock absorbers have been provided slightly over length so that the ride height of the vehicle can be adjusted.

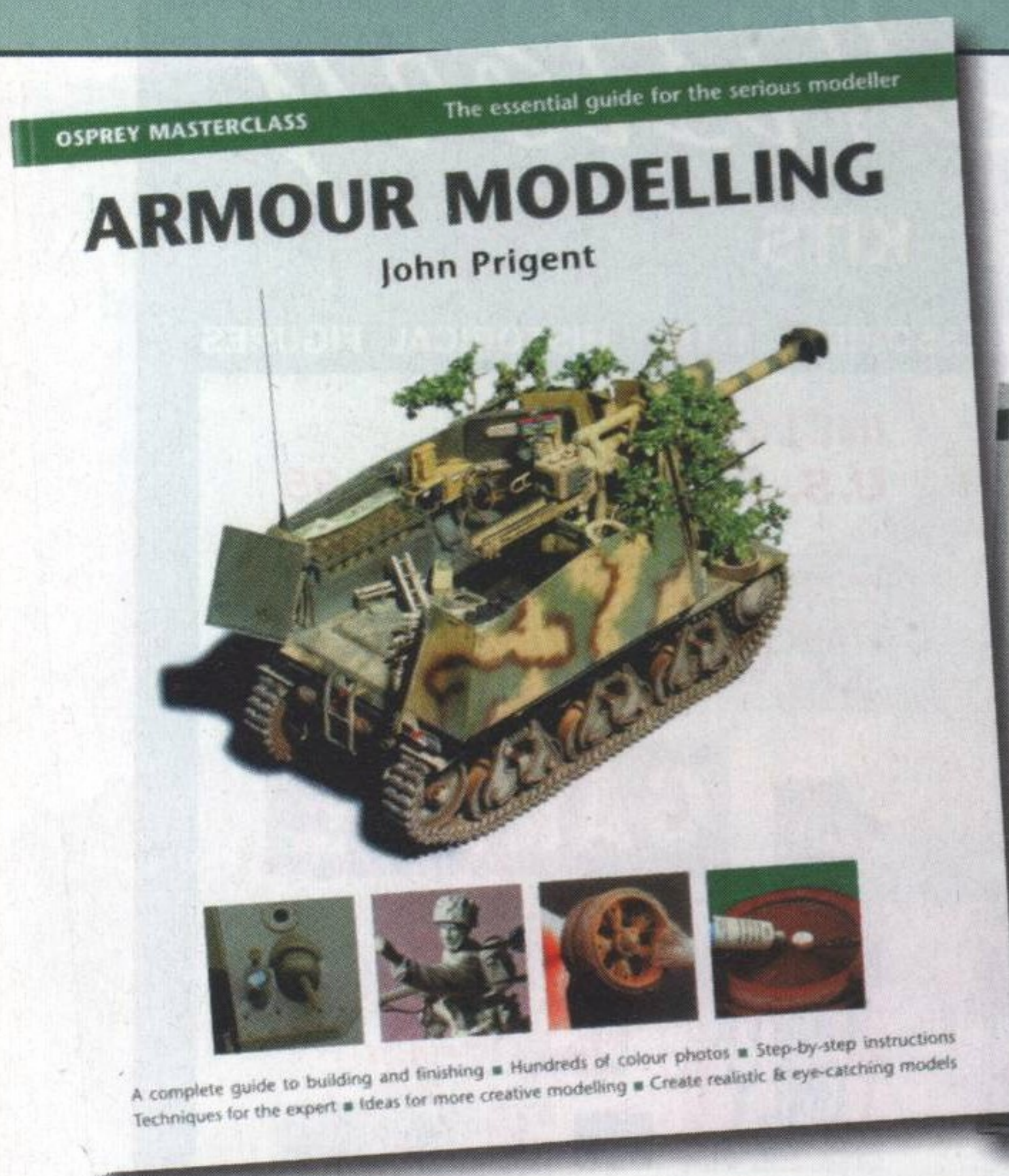
Instructions are provided in the form of photographs of the model during construction. There is little in the way of textual instruction but the photographs should suffice.

The kit is available direct from S2K or from Historex Agents. ■





Book Reviews



ARMOUR MODELLING

JOHN PRIGENT

OSPREY PUBLISHING

ISBN 1-84176-974-6

The latest in Osprey's Masterclass series covers Armour Modelling by one of the luminaries of the hobby, John Prigent. The topic is covered in 192 pages with quality colour photos throughout. What is novel about this particular volume is that it is ring bound thereby allowing the pages to lie flat – very useful when you are trying to follow a technique on your latest creation. 12 chapters cover all aspects of building and finishing armour models and include 3 projects by 'guest' modellers:

Hotchkiss Geschutzwagen – Steve Zaloga

Stug IV – Gary Edmundson

IDF Tiran 5 – Nick Cortese

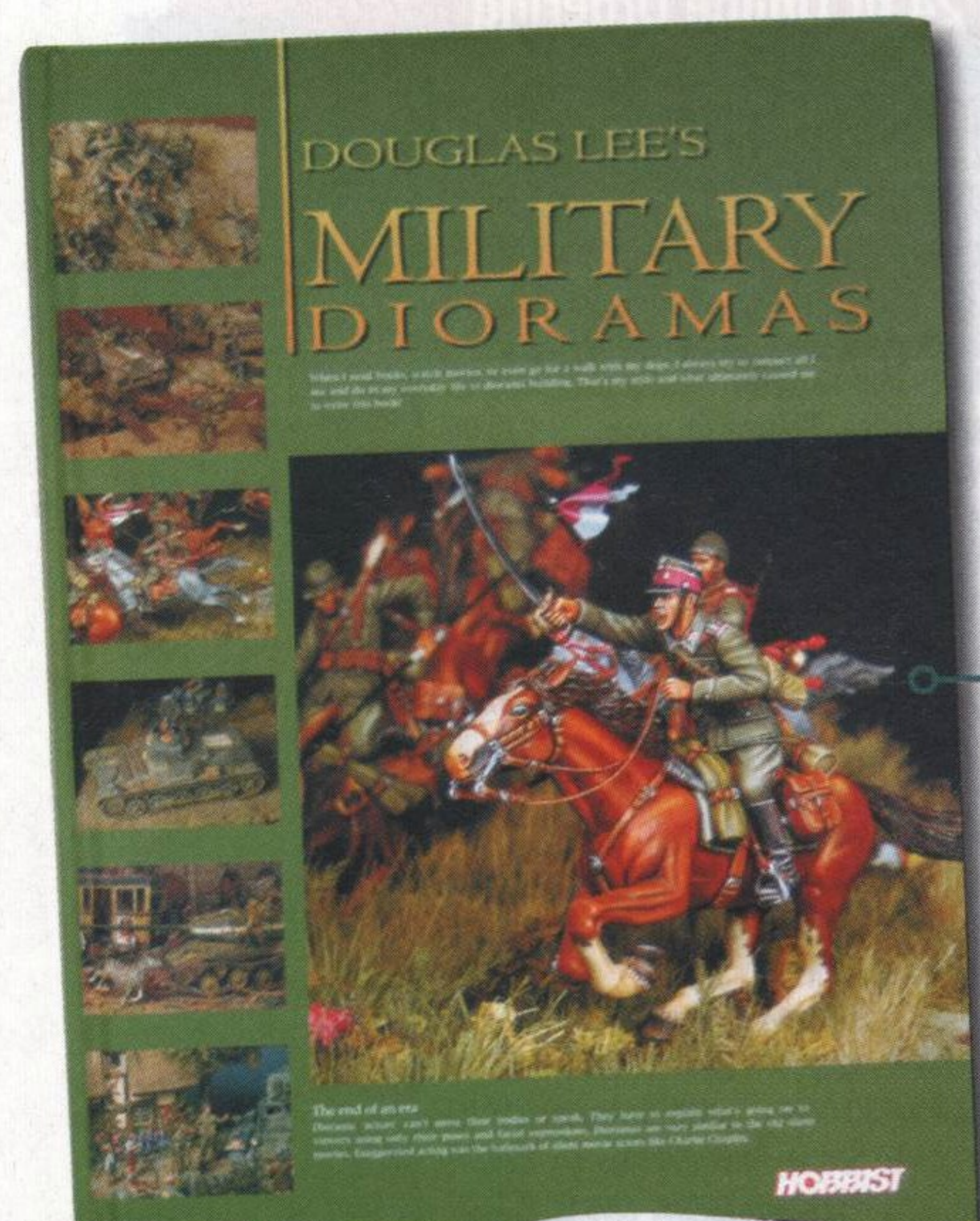
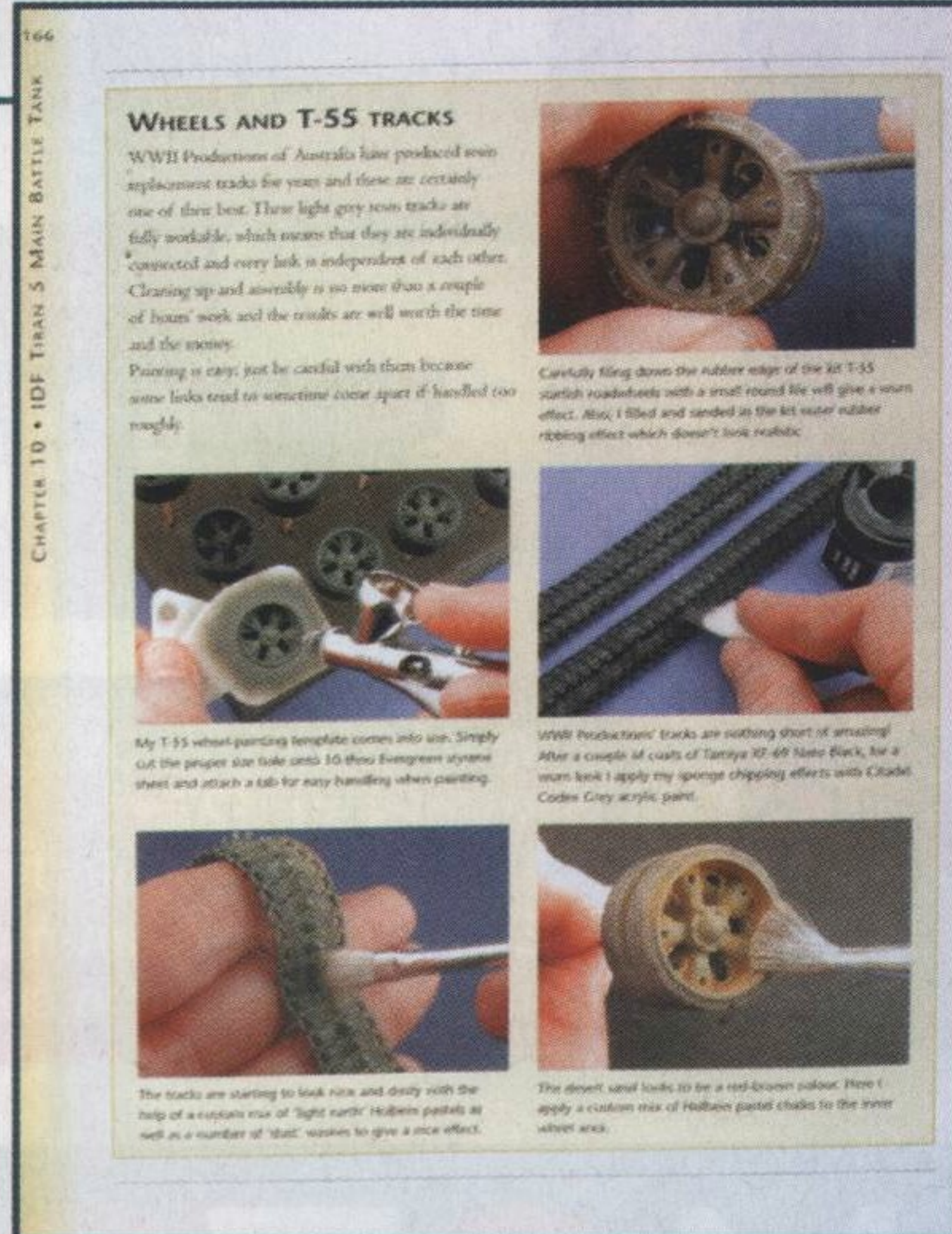
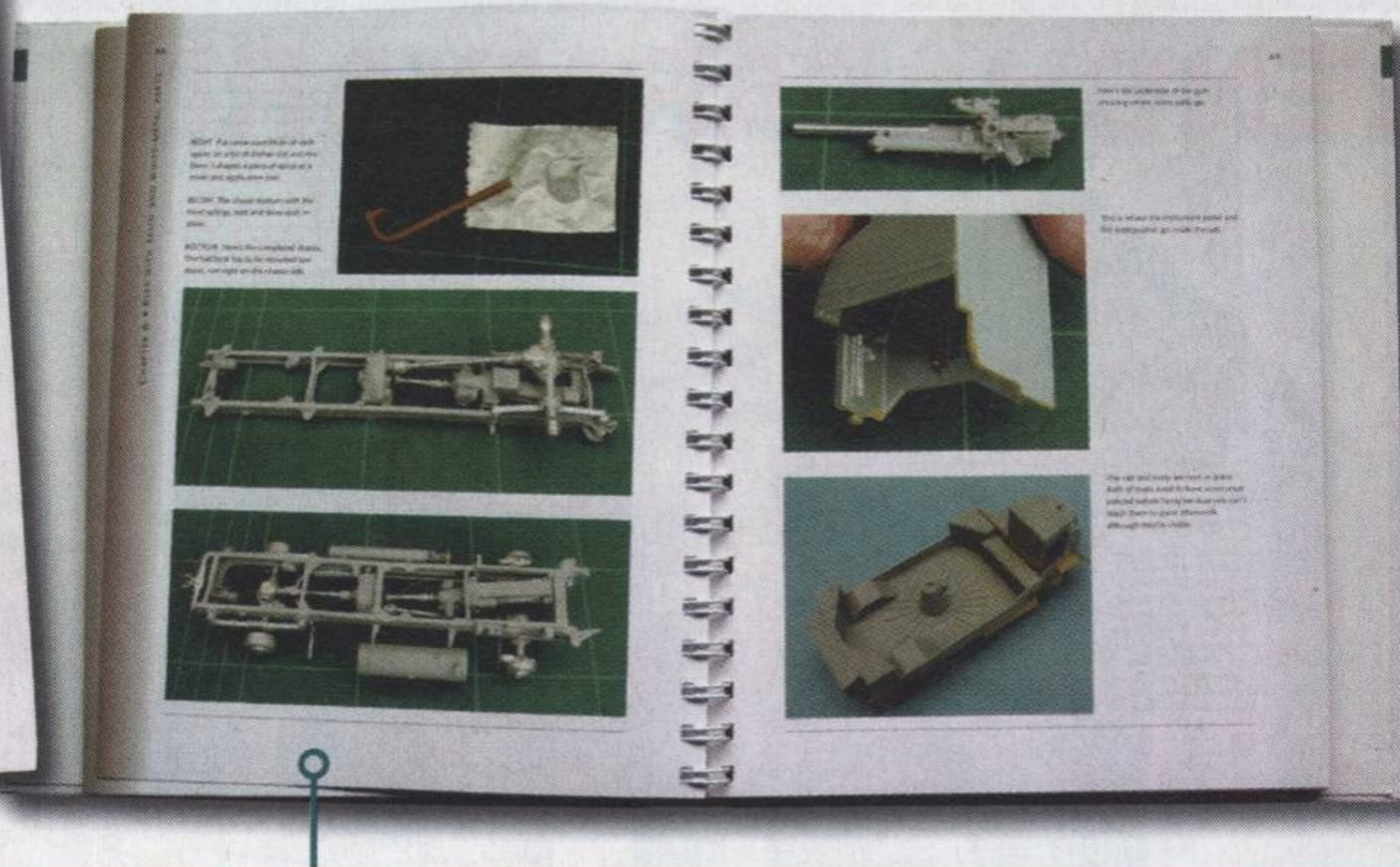
Denis Allaire, Mark Bannerman and Brian Wildfong cover converting and painting crewmembers.

To quote Ken Jones, this volume is 'The ideal primer for anyone new to the hobby of modelling miniature military vehicles' to which I would add 'and for some of us not so new'.

A very good book indeed and for those of you who can't wait for your favourite magazine to cover the various 'how to' techniques, go out and buy it now.

Available from all good book shops or direct from www.ospreypublishing.com

Paul Egerton



DOUGLAS LEE'S MILITARY DIORAMAS

DOUGLAS LEE

HOBBIST ENTERPRISE

ISBN 0-9782269-0-9

Many of you will, no doubt, have heard of Douglas Lee and his fabulous award winning dioramas. Well, with an endorsement by that doyen of model making, Shep Paine, this sizeable volume explains how he does it. 175 pages profusely illustrated with superb colour photos show in some detail how Douglas built the following dioramas:

Hard Trail to Damascus – Golan Heights 1967

The End of an Era – Charge of the Polish Lancers 1939

Berlin, East Africa – Berlin Zoo Animals 1945

Bloody Colonials – Surrey 1943

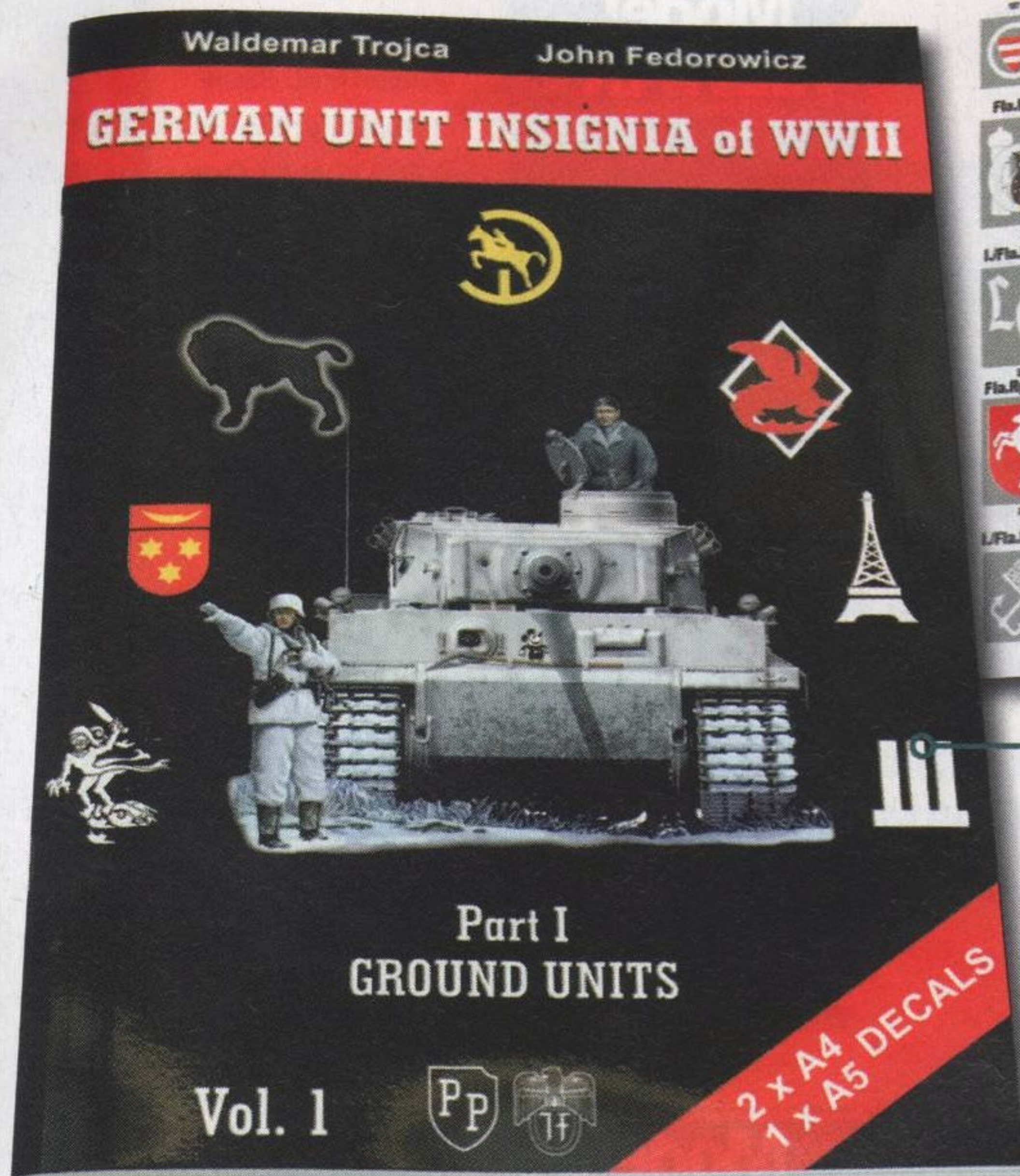
Features on groundwork, figures, vehicles and where appropriate, buildings are included for each project. All of the processes and techniques used are illustrated with large, clear photos and succinct captions – this really is a 'how to' book and contains a mine of information for diorama builders.

This is an inspirational, high quality volume that deserves a place on any model maker's bookshelf.

Available from www.hobbistenterprise.com

Paul Egerton





GERMAN UNIT INSIGNIA OF WWII VOL.1, PART 1. GROUND UNITS WALDEMAR TROJCA AND JOHN FEDOROWICZ ISBN 83 60041 17 2

This book is the first in a series, hoping to cover all the insignia of the German forces, during WWII.

Starting at the beginning, with the 1st Panzer Division, the book begins by giving an abridged history of the Divisions, covering their establishment and structure, the formations that comprised them, campaigns in which they served and, finally, their eventual demise.

It then goes on, with the help of period photographs, to describe and explain, the various markings and insignia, used on the vehicles.

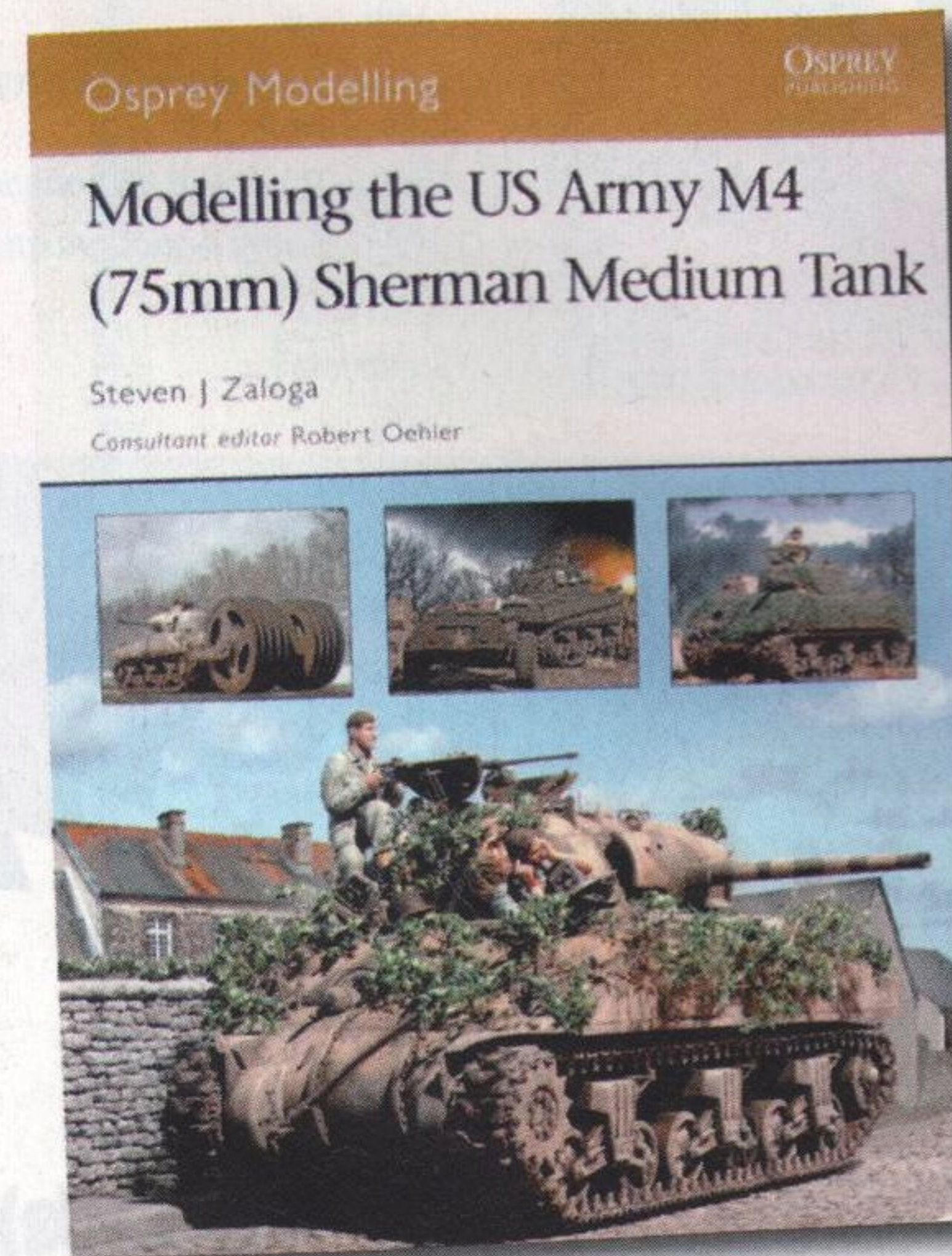
After these first 50 pages, the following 10 pages feature colour illustrations of these insignia, in all their different styles and colours and finishes with 16 pages of colour plates, showing the markings in use, on selected vehicles. These plates will be of a familiar style, to anyone who has bought any of Trojca's, or JJF's previous publications.

The icing on the cake, for us modellers anyway, is the inclusion of 3 large decal sheets, covering every single marking in the book itself. Whilst no scale is given, it certainly appears that most of them are printed in several sizes, so will cater for 1:35, 1:48 and 1:72.

Highly Recommended.

Available from www.bookworldws.co.uk

Darren Thompson



MODELLING THE US ARMY M4(75MM) SHERMAN MEDIUM TANK

STEVEN J ZALOGA
OSPREY PUBLISHING
ISBN 1-84176-965-7

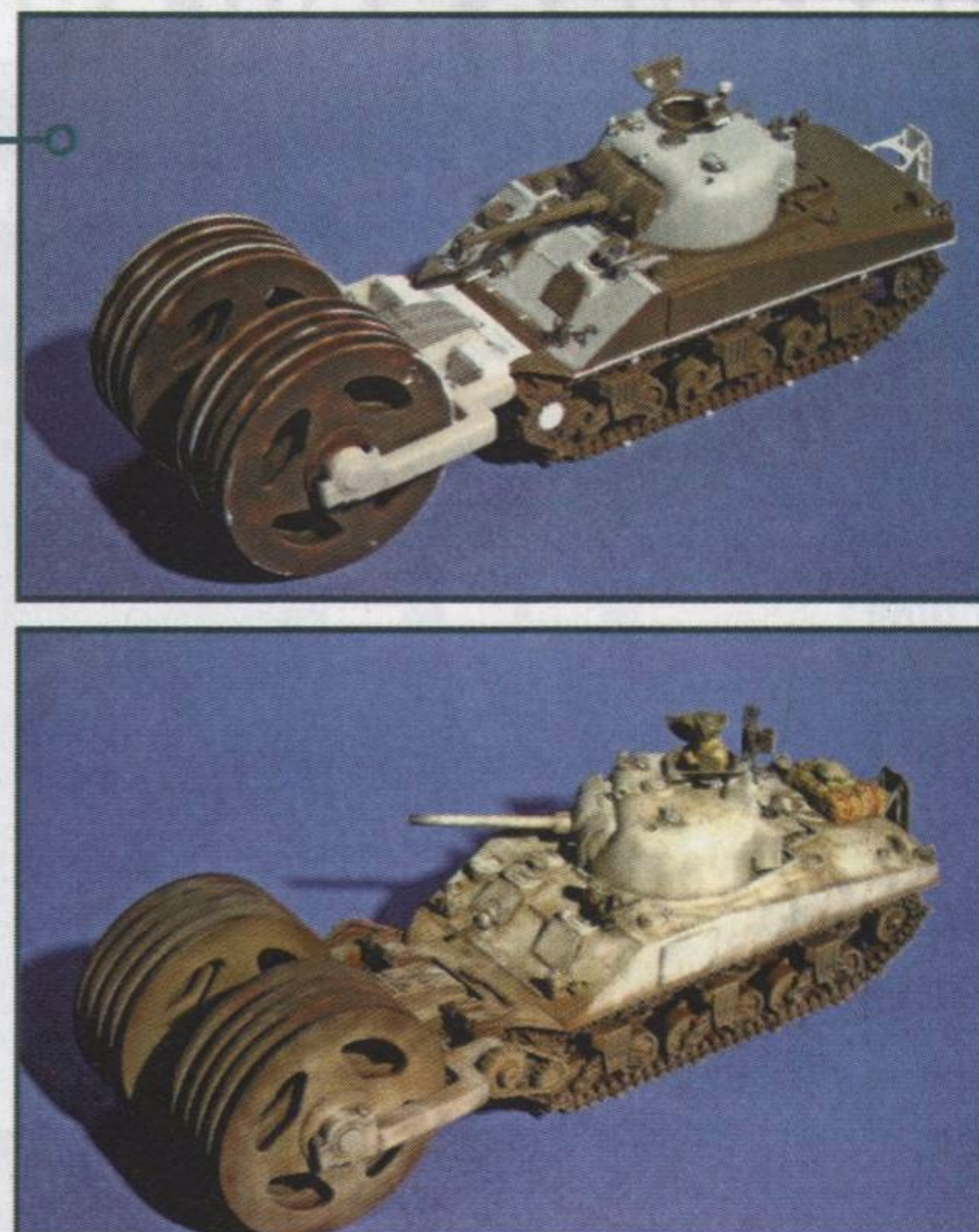
It is hard to believe that this is the 35th book in the Osprey Modelling series and for this publication, Steven Zaloga applies his considerable talent and knowledge to the 75mm gun version of the Sherman used by the US Army in Europe. The 80 pages are split into 6 chapters covering an introduction (a short history of both the tank and models available), four individual project builds and finally, one on reference/research. As with all from this series, the book is crammed full of quality colour photos plus some contemporary b&w shots; also included is a colour chart.

The 1:35 scale projects featured include an early M4A1 from Operation Husky in July 43 (based on Dragon and Tamiya kits), an intermediate M4 during Operation Cobra in Aug 44 (Tamiya base), an M4 mine-roller in the Ardennes Jan 45 (based on the Tamiya kit) and an M4A3 during Operation Grenade Feb 45 (based on Dragon and Italeri kits). Needless to say, all involve after-market products and some scratchbuilding.

Another excellent title in this superb series and with Steven Zaloga's name attached to it, you know you can't go wrong – buy it!!

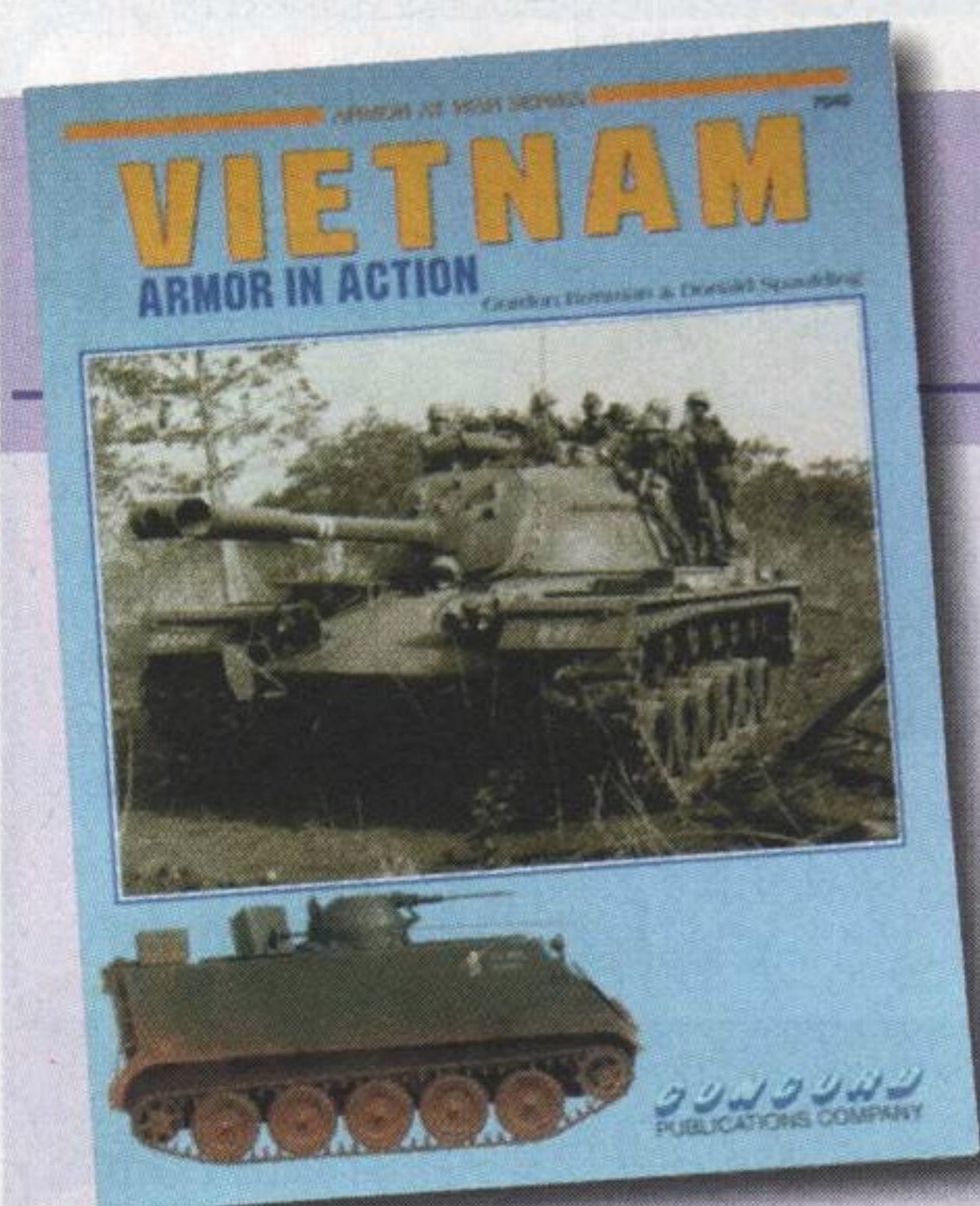
Available from all good book shops or direct from www.ospreypublishing.com

Paul Egerton





Letters



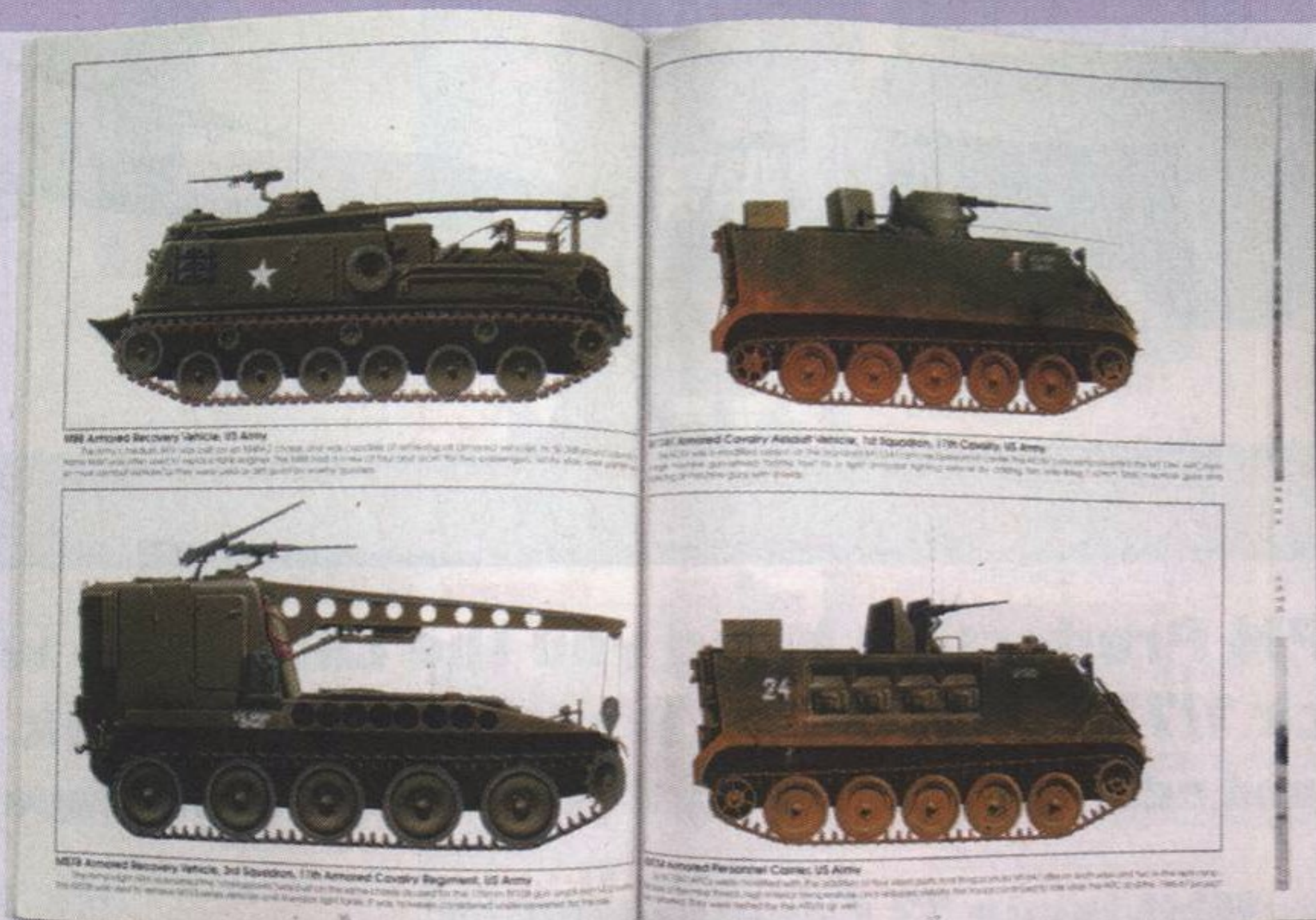
VIETNAM ARMOR IN ACTION

CONCORD PUBLICATIONS 7040

AVAILABLE FROM WWW.BOOKWORLDWS.COM

It must be something to do with the weather but I have started to get the bug for building a vehicle from the Vietnam War again, therefore I couldn't think of a better bathroom read than this one. The book is packed full of US M113s, M48s and more - all inspirational stuff and great reference for weathering and stowage. This book is a must for anyone wanting to get that 'lived in' look on their latest build, I guess I will be digging out another M48 and putting everything else to one side on my workbench?

RECOMMENDED READING



AMTRAC TALES

As a keen modeller from the Philippines, working and based in Singapore, I must say I'm very impressed with your detailed articles and new information, subjects etc., about military scale modelling that you include in your magazines. However, when I bought the February 2007, issue No.10, at page 4 and I see a LVTH6 Amtrac pictures at the lower left corner of the paper, I was surprised that this Amtrac belongs to Taiwanese Armed forces. Let me correct you that this Amtrac pictures belongs to the Philippine Marines, and we are still using this huge vehicle for internal security. The square pattern camouflaged normally referred to as 'urban camouflage' suggest this vehicle was assigned to a Marine Unit in Manila (Philippine Capital), to defend the capital against anti-government elements. The urban camouflage was first introduced in the Philippine armed forces in 1989 and was first used by our Presidential security forces, even the battle dress uniform of the presidential security still have the similar camouflage pattern. Though this vehicle's performance in

Vietnam war was poor, it serve our Philippine Marines courageously, this vehicle first appeared in the public during the historic 1986 Philippine People's Power revolution, after the revolution our country experienced a string of military rebellion or Coup-de-etat, and this vehicle were used by our government to defend democracy. However during the bloodiest Coup in December, 1989, one of these massive machines fell into the hands of a military rebel, which they used to smash the concrete wall of a government military camp in Manila. However after travelling some 100 meters within the camp, It was knocked out by a 105mm howitzer, which fired at it from point blank range. When the government soldiers manning the 105mm howitzer tried to rescue the driver, they were surprised to find the driver of this Amtrac was the brother of one of the gunner's! To check out more pictures about this huge Amtrac, kindly see the following website:
www.timawa.net/walkarounds/2-10-06/
www.hueybravo.net/Marinepages/armor.htm#LVTH5%20and%206
p.s. I hope in the future you will include an article regarding this LVTH6 or LVTP5a1 Amtrac or any Vietnam war armour subjects...

Ver Soriano

Ed says; Thanks for the fascinating information and the links to this impressive vehicle and its funky camouflage scheme. As for including some of these vehicles as articles, or any Vietnam armour, this is

something I will be attending to in the near future. I have just moved house and I am in the process of getting my workshop up and running, hopefully this will allow to get building seriously again.

RETURN TO THE HOBBY

I have not done any modelling since my early teens, and after 20 years have returned to this hobby finding it relaxing and rewarding, and my 10 year old son has also made his first 2 models, so I am well happy that we have another interest we can share.

Anyway enough of the mushy stuff. I have only made 4 models and 2 dioramas and they are nowhere near the quality which I see in your magazine. I have started my next kit and although I have carried out some battle damage, I really do need some tips on how do this. Not just making the damaged colours look realistic, but also how to seal the paint and distress looks on to the model especially if this has been applied dry. In this months issue I have read the 'modelspec' for the Eastern Express KV-14, and here it "when the model and figure had been completed... bottle of Polly Scale flat finish" was used would this seal the distressing in? Also what is this product, do other manufacturers make some thing similar if I can not obtain this locally.

You also mention in the same article a coat of Johnson Wax Klear would this do the same job. I have picked up some good hints and tips from your magazine which I brought for the first time

yesterday, and I have recently purchased an airbrush. I have not used this yet, but have you any tips on it's basic use on vehicles to an absolute beginner, and are there any safety precautions I should take with it's use indoors, mask, goggles, paint spraying everywhere and hoping no one notices. I know I am asking a lot, but I really want to make reasonable job of the models I make, and I have no idea who to ask, and I do not want to join a modelling club.

Thanks,
Andrew Chamberlain.

Ed Says; Well Andrew as you have only bought the magazine for the first time recently, I would suggest ordering the back issues, as we have covered all of these questions. Failing that and the fact that you do not want to join a model club, which I feel is a shame, as it's a great place to learn and get advice. I would then recommend the FAQ book by Miguel Jimenez or Armour Modelling by John Prigent, which has been reviewed within this very issue. Both these books will I'm sure be a great help.

Polly Scale flat finish is a matt varnish which is used as a final covering to give the model a uniform tone, i.e. get rid of any unwanted shiny areas, which may have appeared during the weathering process. One word of warning if pigments and pastel chalks have been applied prior to 'matting down', much of the effect will disappear under the flat finish! Johnson's Klear is an acrylic floor polish sold in supermarkets and is a very

WRITE TO:

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The views expressed are not necessarily those of the editor or publisher. Letters may be edited for publication.

cheap, durable and excellent gloss varnish, this is primarily used to gloss a models surface before applying decals. It can also be used to protect base colours from washes where these processes may tend to damage the underlying paints. Regarding your new airbrush, the very basic and obvious precautions would be to wear the appropriate mask, spray in a well ventilated area and my personal preference would be to use acrylic paints, as they are far less damaging to you, your son and the environment. Lastly, take care which room you choose to spray in, as overspray and the dust will settle everywhere. I would recommend the garage, utility room, or the like if possible, and not the living room!

SCALES SCALES SCALES

I have to say, firstly, that I am new to building models and I do enjoy assembling/constructing the models and watching them take shape. But, whose idea was it to have so many scales? Building dioramas must be so difficult getting the right elements in the same scale. Especially when you want to mix planes with vehicles or even ships. Even 54mm figures don't fit in easily. Why are there so many scales?

Romeo
Australia

Ed says: *Wow, that is like asking the meaning of life. But truthfully I don't see it as a problem, many companies make 1:72 armour, aircraft and figures, likewise 1:48 now has a rabidly growing range of armour and accessories to go with this incredibly popular aircraft scale. The only scale that does suffer from a lack of crossover is 1:35, but there is a growing number of none armour models being released in this scale including helicopters, landing craft and a few aircraft.*

WHY THE CHANGE?

I've bitten my tongue long enough on this and now it's time to let rip! Am I alone in thinking that Tamiya are mad for moving into the 1:48 scale armour market? After years of producing the finest 1:35 scale stuff on earth why go in this direction? I have read all the reviews on these new kits and my personal opinion is that they are rubbish, my reasons for this are (1) Why cast the hull tubs in die-cast metal? I'm having a great time at the moment converting a Challenger 2 into a desert Chally copying a model in an Osprey book, you can't chop die cast about for a conversion!.

(2) Link and Length tracks, in a previous issue you published a letter from me saying that I couldn't do these but as a child of nine (I'm now thirty-eight) one of the best things about finishing a Tamiya tank kit was being able to push it along to imagine how the real thing ran (noises optional!) I know the "pure faith modellers" say that you don't get track sag with rubber band tracks but with our hobby competing with other distractions to get children interested in our hobby I feel that this gimmick is essential to fire imaginations and keep children interested (I'm a father of two so I've got experience in this field!) If you want these can't Tamiya put both types in the box like Academy do.

After building models all this time I feel I'm being stabbed in the back for all my years of devotion to our beloved hobby and it breaks my heart to see the aftermarket boys jumping on the bandwagon, LONG LIVE 1:35 SCALE

With many thanks for your fantastic magazine,

Danny Greenway.



MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

WHATS THE POINT OF REFERENCE PHOTOS?

I received a letter recently stating that there was no point in having full size reference in a magazine such as this. His claim was that all the reference needed was freely available on the internet. Well that statement is very true. But, and it's a big 'but', not everyone has the internet and, or the facilities to print off all the images needed.

In our case we hope that the photos and articles we include will prove useful for general modelling and weathering. If for instance we featured combat uniforms of the 3rd Llama Regiment of the 1978 Peruvian Ice Cream Crisis, then I would understand that the interest in this topic would be very limited. This is why we have chosen topics which we hope will be useful and I still think it is easier to have a magazine open next to where you are modelling, rather than than taking your modelling to the computer. An example that springs to mind is the photo reference article Marcus Nicholls featured in TMMI on weathering earth moving equipment. The article was not meant to appeal only to bulldozer modellers, but to show general wear and tear on metal for all modellers. Ironically as an off-shoot Mig Productions have recently released a couple of highly detailed kits of wheeled loaders, where this type of reference would prove invaluable.



picture courtesy of www.ktot.net

See you again on May 3rd!

Spud

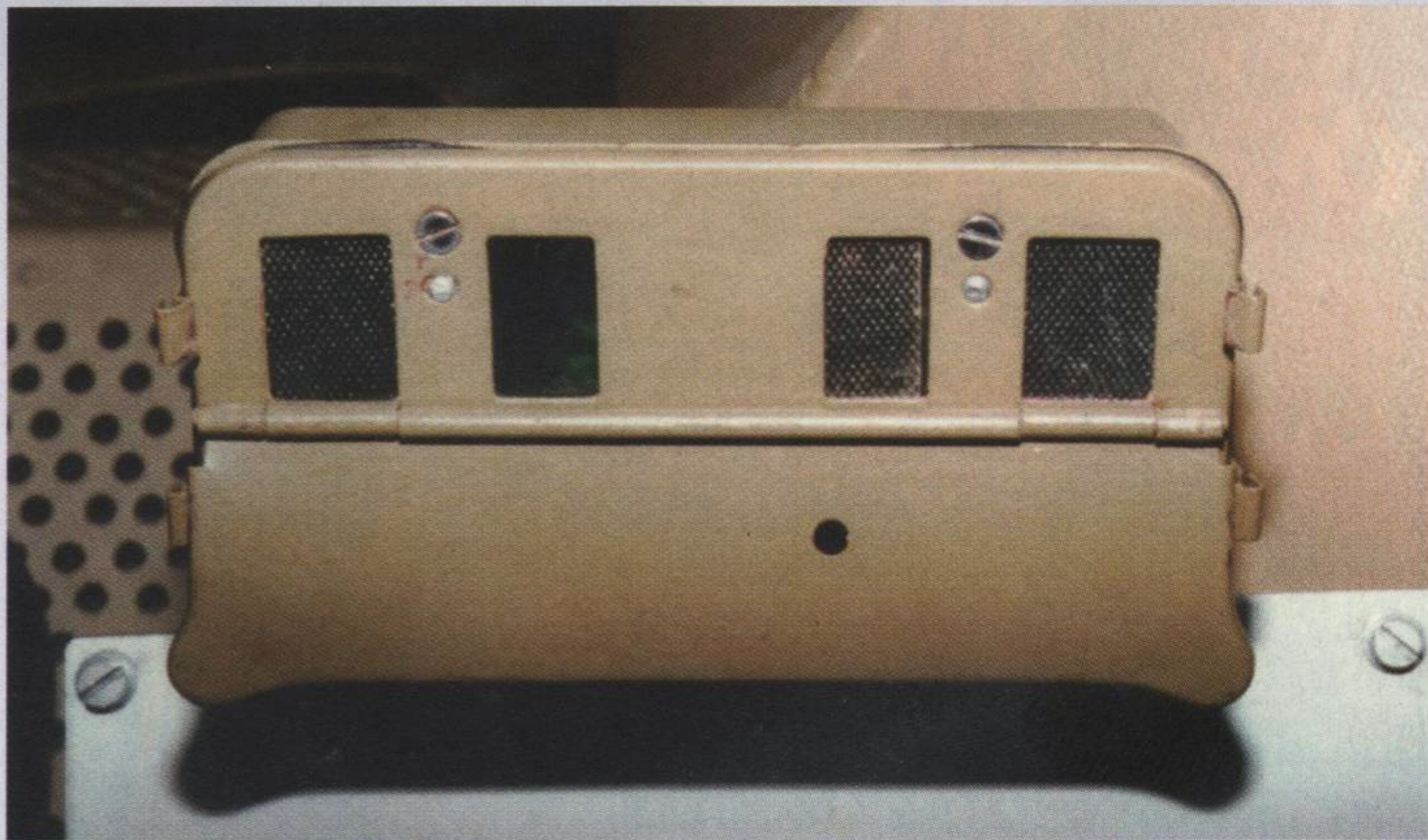
John 'Spud' Murphy

RANDOM REFERENCE!

This month's reference photos should prove handy for anyone interested in superdetailing German vehicles.

This is a photo I took several years ago of the convoy marker light mounted on the rear of a Sd.Kfz 231 eight wheeled armoured car from the Koblenz museum in Germany.

As can be seen, the light has two settings, with the aid a hinged, sheet metal flap which can be moved to cover one of the two sets of marker lights. In most kits that feature this type of convoy light, the flap is moulded in the lower position and as can be seen in the accompanying photos the second window from the left should be green while the others do not show any particular colour, just 'black glass'. If however the flap is in the upper position, the windows should be red and orange respectively. Obviously not a worry to builders of 1:72, but this should prove handy to anyone working in the larger scales.





Figures

- A round-up of the latest figure sets on release...



CMK 1:35 CZ ARMY KFOR (TWO FIGURES) ITEM NO. F35173

What a nice change to have some figures that aren't German or US. This pair of modern Czech soldiers are armed with Kalashnikov assault rifles and are designed to be manning a check point of some kind. With the growing number of modern accessories, diorama products and civilian vehicles becoming available, one's imagination can run riot.

www.hannants.co.uk

9/10 - The Editor

F72161
German soldiers with
Panzerschreck (2 fig.+metal parts) scale 1/72

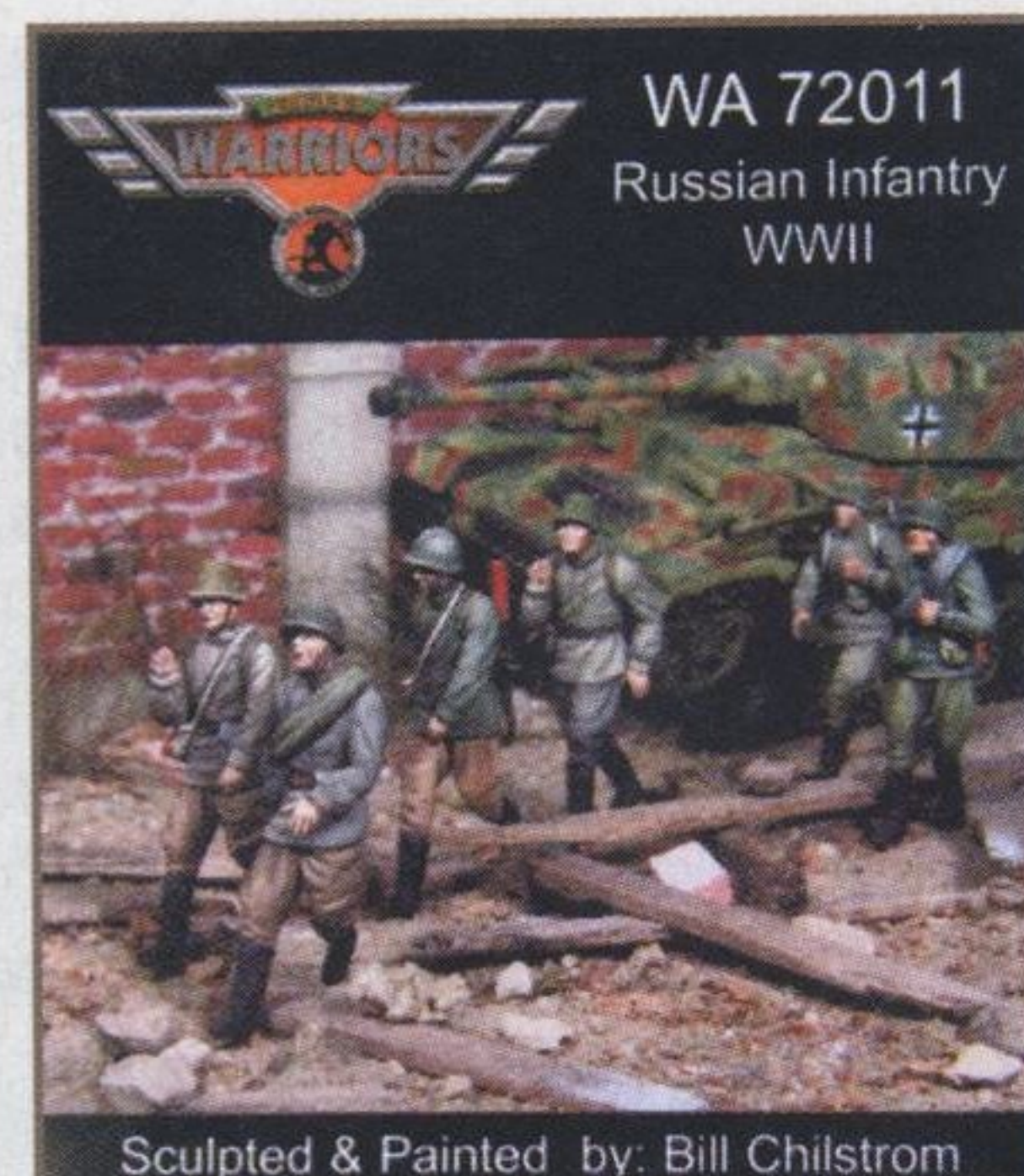


CMK 1:72 GERMAN SOLDIERS WITH PANZERSHRECK ITEM NO. F72161

This set contains nine resin parts an etched metal fret of five parts and a brass tube and builds into two figures, one kneeling with the Panzerschreck ready to fire, the other standing carrying a spare round and ammo case. Again these figures are highly detailed both with separate heads and arms and the Panzerschreck is particularly well done. Recommended.

www.hannants.co.uk

8/10 - Jeff Adams

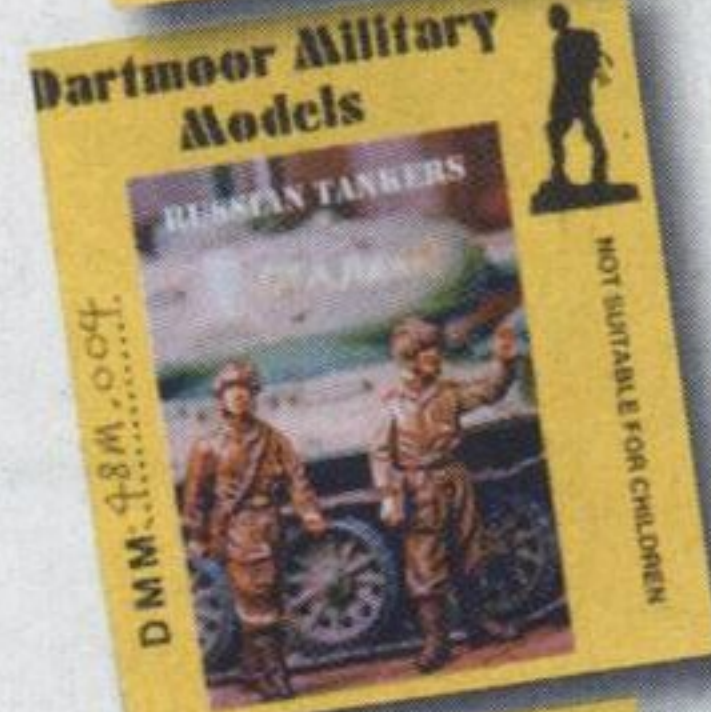


WARRIORS 1:72 RUSSIAN INFANTRY ITEM NO. WA72011

This is a set of six Russian Infantrymen advancing and consists of 30 resin parts. Each figure has separate arms, head and weapon. The figures themselves are well detailed but the Modeler may well have a problem deciding on which arms go with which figure as you only have a small picture on the box to go on. Recommended.

www.squadron.com

7/10 - Jeff Adams



DARTMOOR MILITARY MODELS DMM48M.003 TWO GERMAN SELF PROPELLED GUN CREW DMM48M.004 TWO RUSSIAN TANK CREW DMM48M.007 TWO BRITISH SAS LRDG FIGURES WESTERN DESERT DMM48M.009 TWO BRITISH TANK CREW WESTERN DESERT

We have just received this second batch of 1:48 white metal figures from Dartmoor Military Models and they are every bit as good as the ones we reviewed back in Issue 9. Each set has been sculpted with some of the latest 1:48 armour kits in mind, including the Tamiya Stug III, T34s KVs and the brand new Crusader MK I/II. The level of detail has to be seen to be believed and the casting is flawless. These really are the perfect complement for your latest 1:48 build.

Dartmoor Military Models

Email perry923@btinternet.com

10/10 - The Editor

S&T PRODUCTS 120MM WEHRMACHT UNTEROFFICER 1944 ITEM NO. 16028

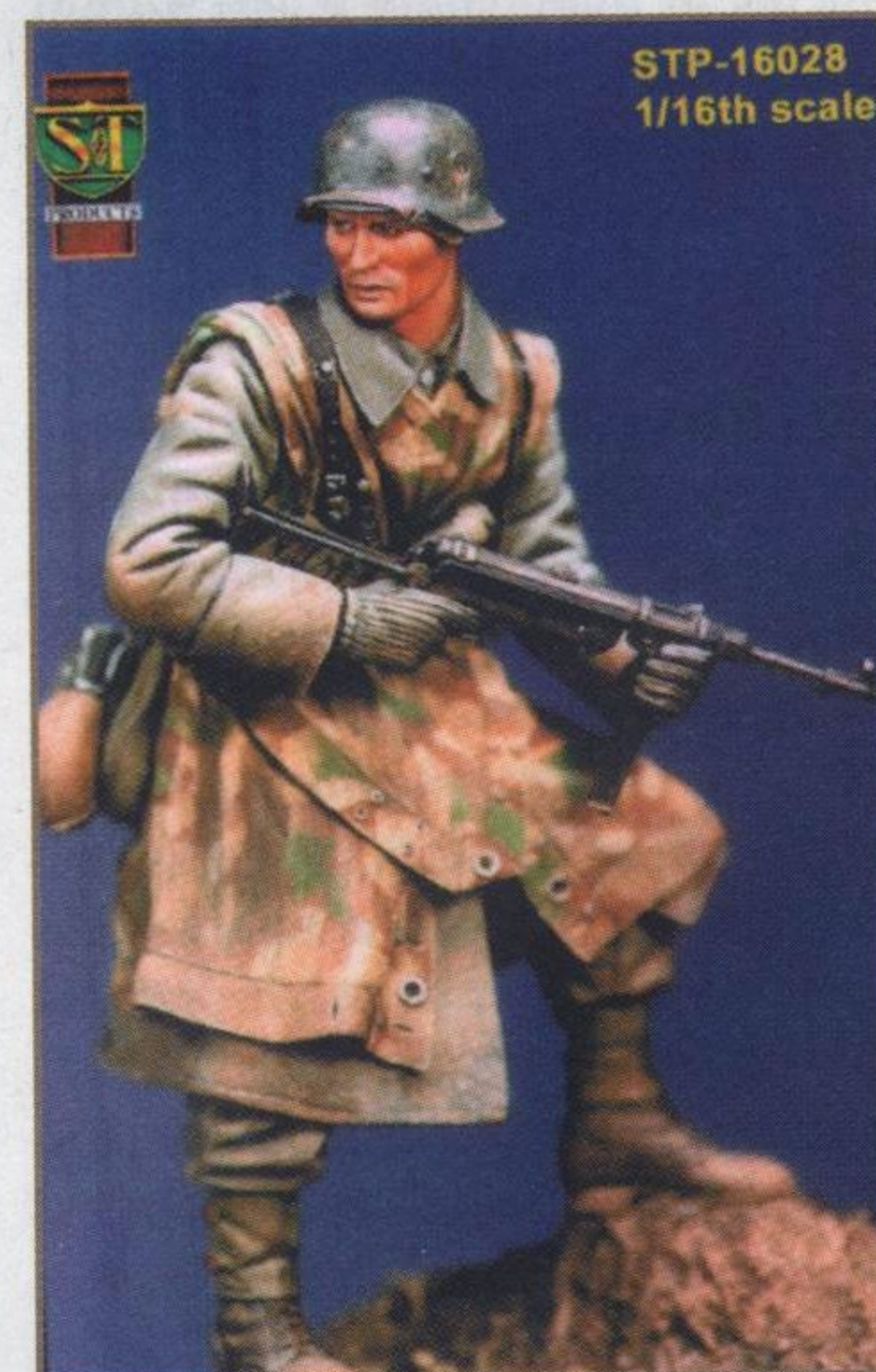
I've just received my first figure from one of S&T Products' latest releases of a Wehrmacht Unterofficer. The figure was sculpted by John Rosengrant and comes in full yellow-coloured resin with a smart looking resin base. The figure's torso comes in two parts, with separate arms, helmet, and gloved hands. The hands are separate from the arms but firmly attached to the MP-40.

The detail on this figure is remarkable and truly exquisite with nicely sculpted folds, minimal flash and I could find no evidence of mould seams anywhere. The head is really

well done with nicely executed character detail. The eye sockets are symmetrical with ample room to add eye details. The cheek bones are very pronounced. Creases on cheeks, lips and details around nose and eyes are superb. The uniform and attention to detail is really top-notch on this figure with realistically placed folds and accurately placed button-holes and tie-down ring studs on the zeltbahn coverall. The accessories attached to the figure's belt and the boots are well proportioned (always a thorny issue for me). The MP-40 is very nicely detailed. The moulded-on hand with resting finger on the trigger is a superb touch. I particularly like the natural pose of this figure and while it's not a "high action" stance, the pose allows the figure to be more easily presented as a stand-alone figure with its raised left foot resting on any number of objects. Moreover, this figure would be an excellent choice for anyone looking to build a 1:16 vehicle and wanting to add a human element to the presentation (the 1:16 T-34 comes to mind). The high quality of the sculpting throughout makes this a very desirable figure. One cannot expect anything less from Mr. Rosengrant. Packed in a stout little box with a superbly painted rendition of the figure on the box art, this is an excellent figure and I rate as one of the best 1:16 figures I have yet come across.

www.sntproducts.com

10/10 - Mark Bannerman





Alex Eric Cheung finds out just how well detailed Dragon's Panzer IV.D is...

CREATING A DU

Panzerkampfwagen IV, generally known as the Panzer IV, was the workhorse of the German army in the World War II. The first Panzer IV A designed by Krupp was assembled in October 1937. Armed with the 75mm KwK 37 L/24 gun, the early Panzer IV was intentionally designed as a supporting vehicle for infantry rather than the Panzer III, which was designed for enemy armour engagement. Due to the short barrel length, the muzzle velocity

and the accuracy were not enough to deal with armoured targets especially when it was in action in the East, where the Soviets were armed with the sloped armoured T34 and the heavily armoured KV series. This problem was not solved until the Panzer IV F/2 and G appeared which were armed with a newer, longer-barreled 75mm KwK40 L/43 gun. At last, all new Panzer IVs (from late G to final J) were upgraded to 75mm KwK40 L/48 and were in service until the end of war.

THE KIT

The latest Panzer IVs issued by two very famous manufacturers - Tristar and Dragon, attracted me. When the latter was released, I decided to build it straight out of the box for a review. Firstly, I have to say that Dragon's moulding techniques have advanced so much when compared to the old Panzer IV series; it is so sharp making the detail more life-like and really eye catching. You may know that there are physical constraints in producing complicated components

in one piece; Dragon overcomes this by breaking the component down into many small pieces. Which isn't a bad approach if the modeller has the appropriate tools and time! I spent nearly 4 hours assembling the transmission! However, the end result is very realistic and you can see the gears, bolts and the details inside. Unfortunately if you are modelling a working vehicle much of this detail will be hidden. If you are someone who enjoys involved builds, this will be a great project, but for me when I discover



JUSTY 'D'

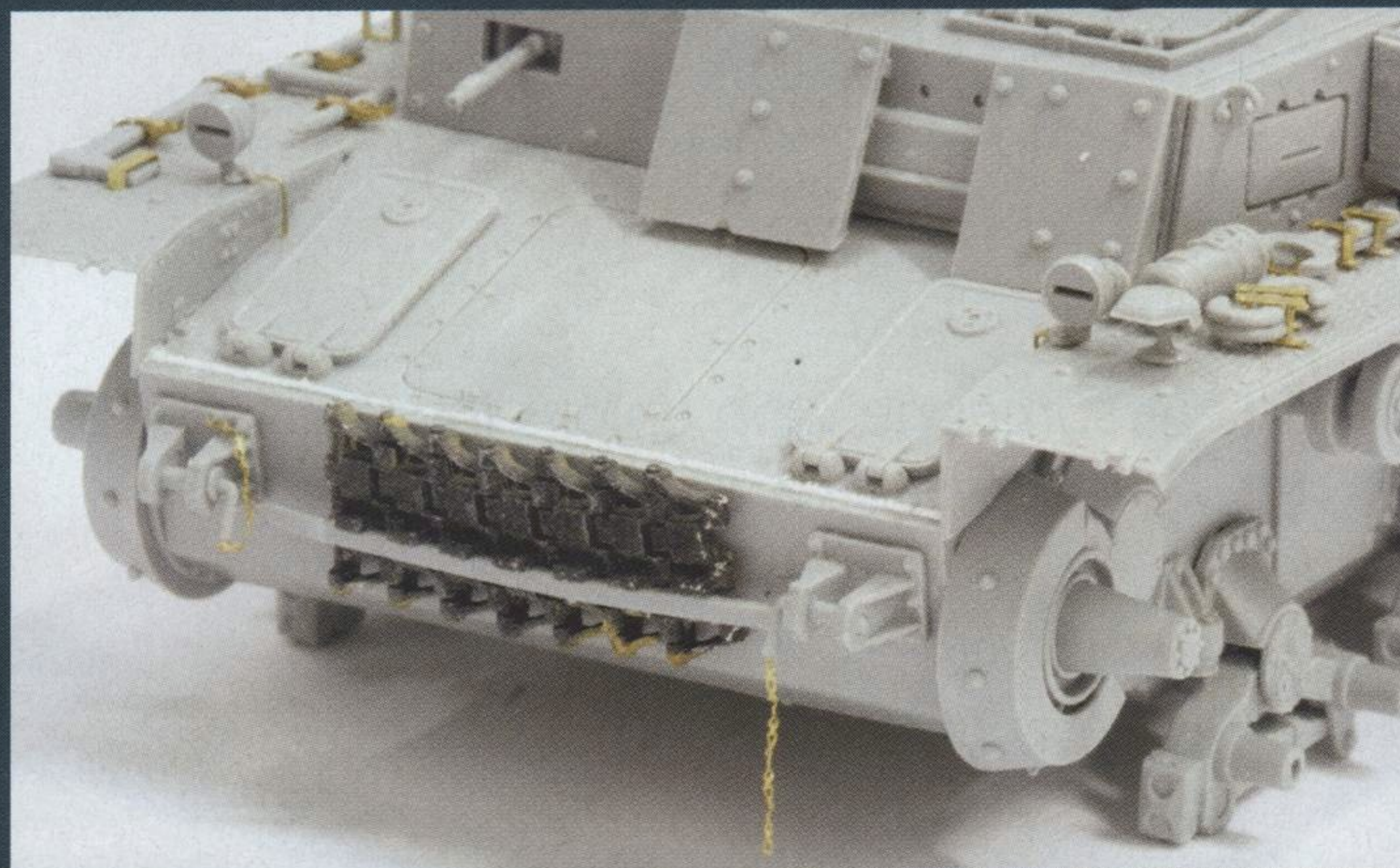
I have to face all these parts it really is a bit of a nightmare! But one thing I will say is that the so-called 'magic tracks' although not as magic as claimed, are really great for a lazy guy like me. The links are all pre-cut from the sprues and only require the bare minimum of clean-up. I did find while assembling them that many of the links did not clip together which caused them to keep falling apart. I resorted to the old method of assembly and applied Tamiya liquid cement to each link before

clicking them together.

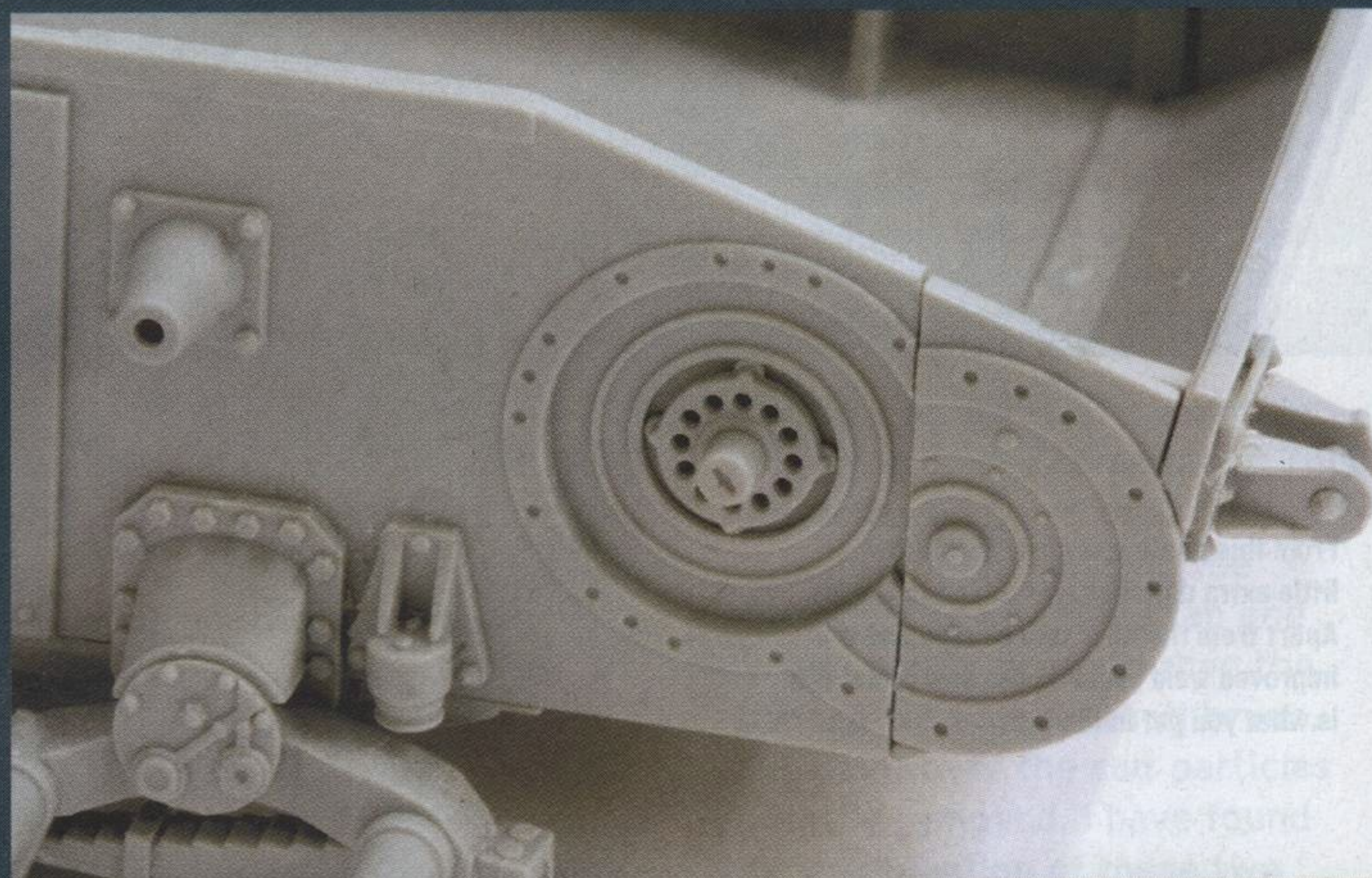
Often, I like to open all the hatches and doors on my models but this doesn't look right with no interior detail, especially for Panzer IVs where the hatches were often seen open. Dragon does a good job here to include a simplified interior including the turret floor, the gun breech and mount. Even though it is not a match for the complete interior sets offered by the aftermarket companies, it is welcomed for a straight out of the box product! ►



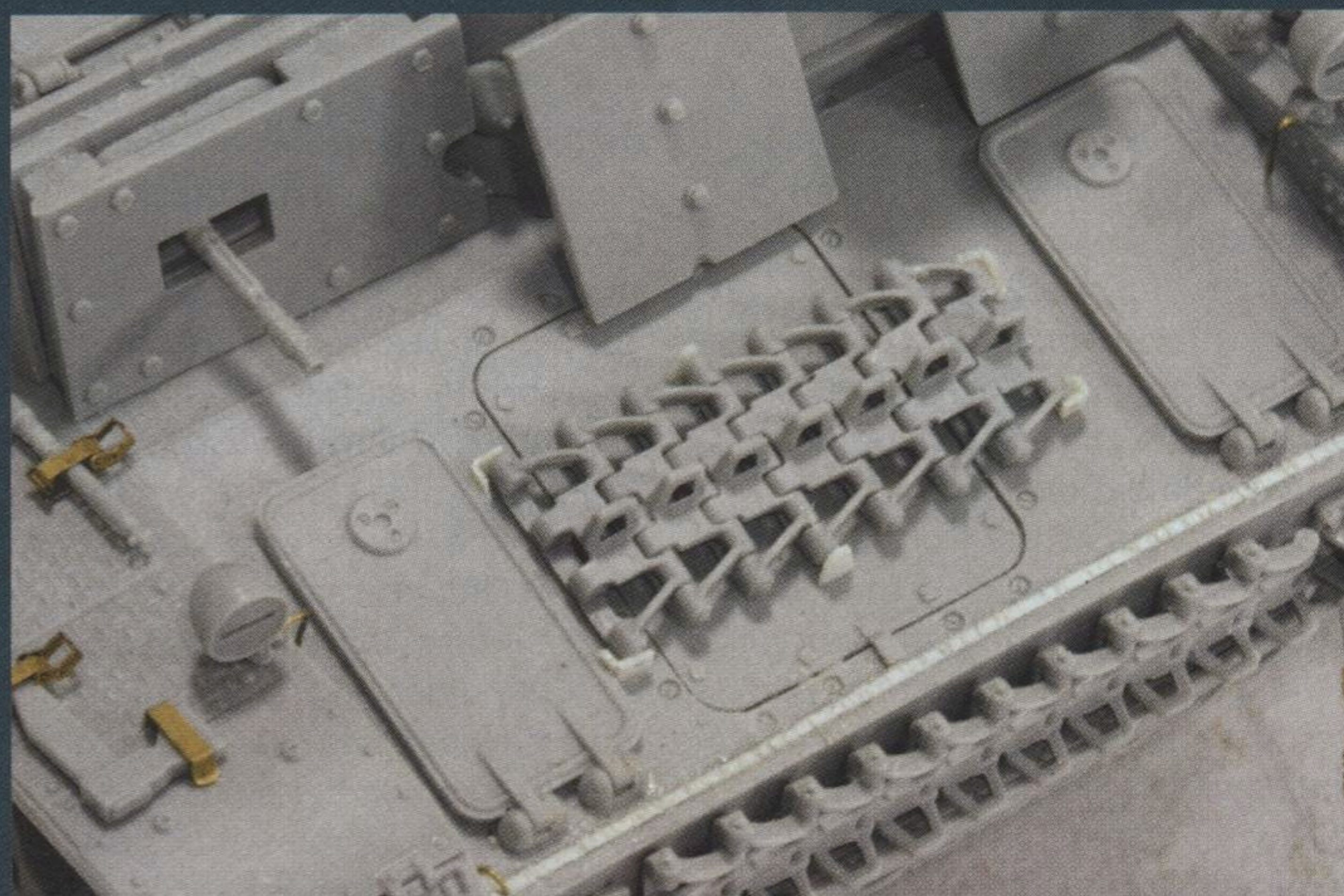
The level of detail in this kit is readily apparent in this photo of the commander's cupola. Note the tiny etched brass sighting vane in front of the forward episcopes.



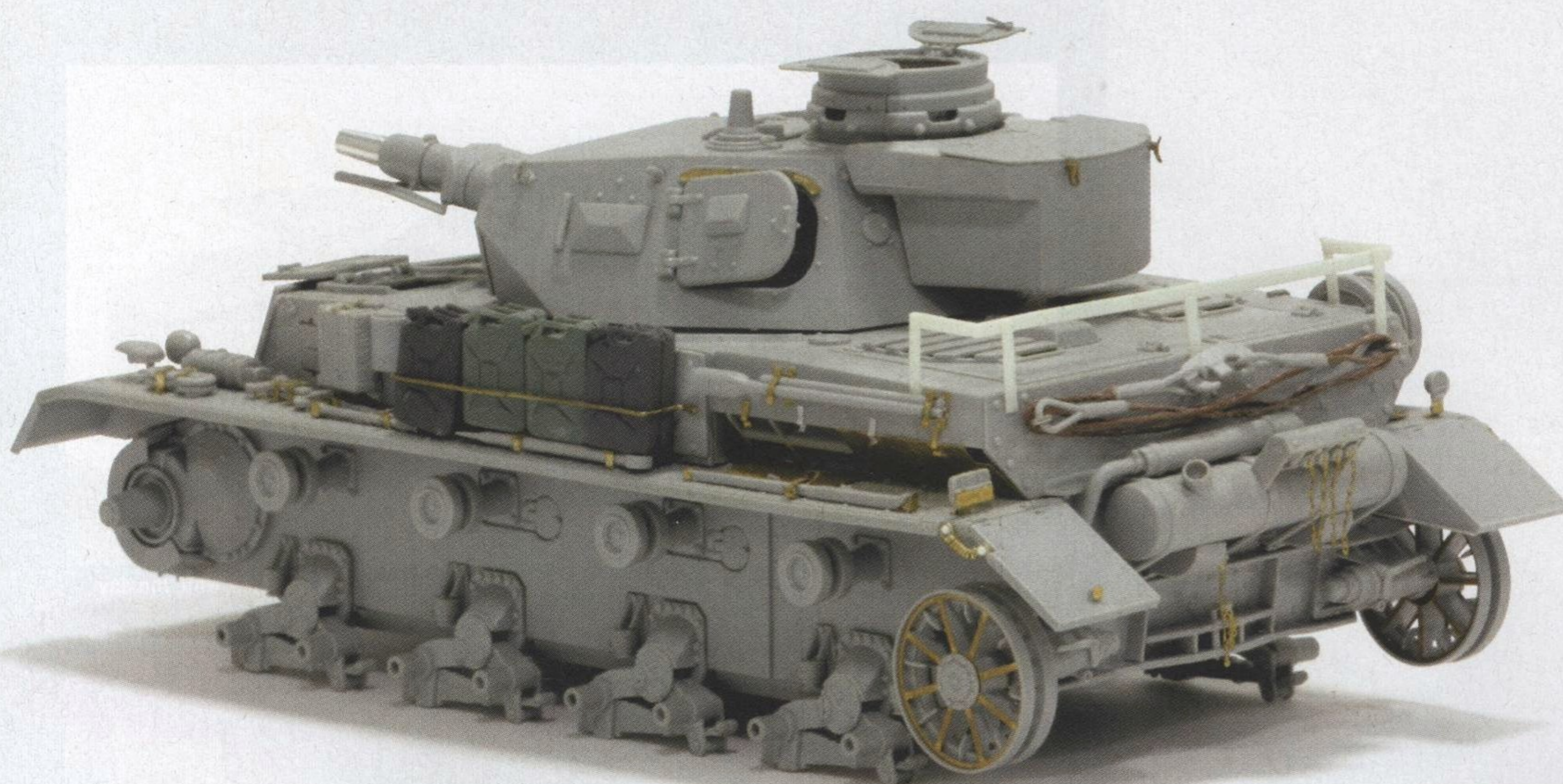
The author made good use of the excellent Aber etched brass German tool clamp set. A length of leftover Friulmodel Panzer IV track has been used to supplement the bow armour.



Having detail on the hull sides normally hidden by the final drive housings offers excellent diorama potential, maintenance scenes springs to mind for example.

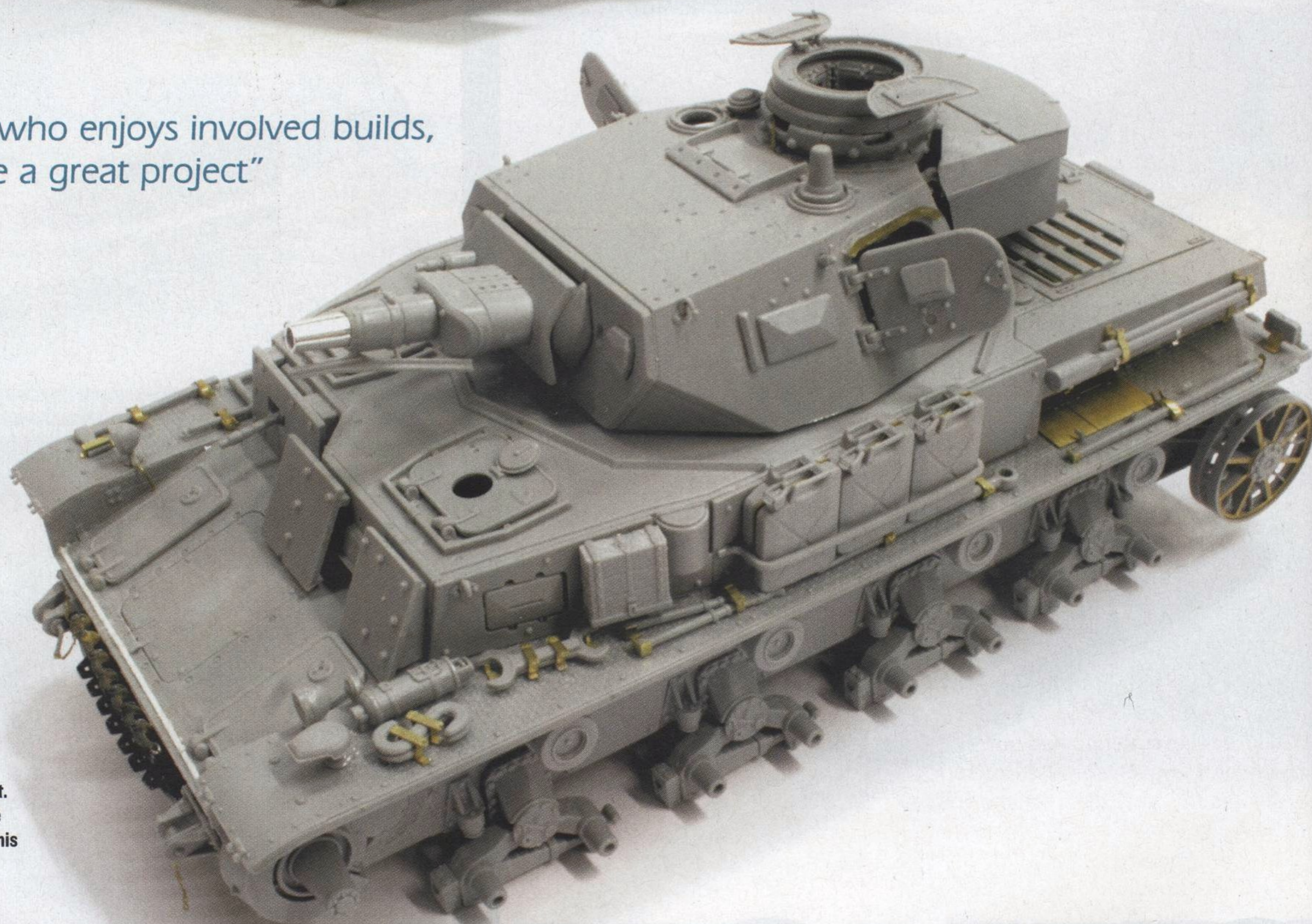


The kit weld seams were reworked by first adding 0.2 and 0.3 plastic rod. They are then washed with Tamiya thin cement before adding the weld texture with a modelling cutter. The spare links were removed from the transmission cover prior to painting by the author as he felt they hid too much detail.



The model is now ready for painting. The wheels, sprockets and tracks have been left off to make painting easier.

"If you are someone who enjoys involved builds, this will be a great project"



From this photo it is clear to see how little extra detailing was added to the kit. Apart from the Aber tool clamps and the improved weld seam on the bow plate, this is what you get in the box.

CONSTRUCTION

As I said, this was to be an out of the box project so, I did not intend to put much additional effort into the build. Following the instructions, 90% of the assembly is straightforward. The only modifications are to the track holders at the front and to the stowage racks at the side and rear of the tank representing field modifications. The only replacement parts used were the tool and stowage bin clamps and clasps and these all came from the excellent Aber tool clamp set for German vehicles. The jerry cans are from an old Tamiya set but I

replaced the bottom with foil to represent an irregular finish to the sheet metal. Finally, I have reworked the weld seams with 0.2 and 0.3 plastic rod by cutting the appropriate lengths and gluing to the edges. When they had set I applied Tamiya thin cement (green cap) to the whole length and used a modelling cutter to create the weld texture. Initially I added a track holder on the front hull but after deciding that it would cover too much detail, decided to remove it. I hope I'm not the only one who changes their mind halfway through a project?

THE PAINT JOB

I decided from the outset to finish the model as a DAK vehicle. I studied lots of pictures and other modellers' work but not many of them really explained how desert camouflage was applied in the field. As mine was going to be an early vehicle sent to the DAK, it should have a base coat of panzer grey with a field applied desert paint scheme on top. So, the focus here was to do this in a realistic way. Generally, there are two main approaches to modelling such colour schemes. The first is an air brush painting technique applying thin coats over the edges and the

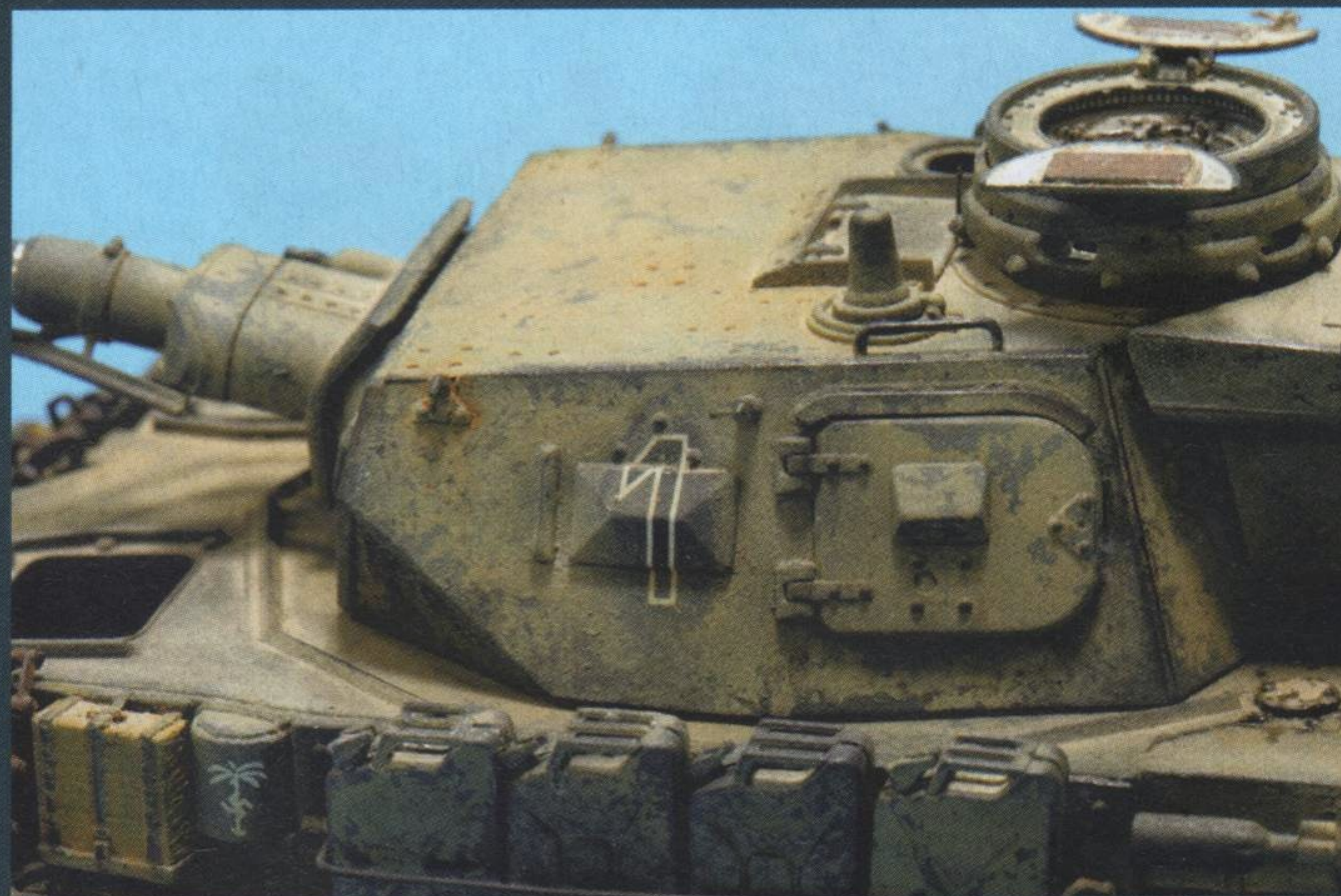
joints of the armour surfaces. The second is to use the dry brushing and sponge technique to replicate the exposed base colour on top of the camouflage. I have tried both of these methods but neither has provided the desired result. Since I want to depict scratches, wear and heavy weathering, I found a combination of both these methods worked best.

INTERIOR PAINTING

The whole interior is sprayed with a mixture of flat white and flat yellow in a ratio of 6:1. All interior equipment like the periscope, the handles of the vision ports and



The ivory (RAL 1001 Elfenbein) finish on the turret escape hatch adds some contrast to the heavily weathered exterior. Note the polished edge on the lip of the hatch opening from frequent use.



A combination of two weathering techniques have been used to achieve this very convincing heavily weathered look. The first involved Vaseline and the second a salt solution. This is explained further in the main text.



As per the bow plate, the spare track links beside the hull machine gun are spare items from a set of Fruijmodel white metal tracks.



The same mix of Mig Productions rust pigment and Tamiya black acrylic as used for the exhaust has also been used on the gun barrel. To replicate the polished effect of the section that recoils into the out sleeve, Gunze super metal colour was applied which simulates the highly polished surface perfectly.

the MG are painted with gloss black. This was then washed with diluted burnt sienna and burnt umber, I find Winsor and Newton Artists Oil paint the best choice for this job due to the fine pigments that give a very smooth colour. The access points such as those around the hatches, and the area behind the commander's seat were dry brushed with metal grey, flat black and some red brown to give different degrees of wear. Finally, the turret floor and the edges of those frequently accessed areas were highlighted with a 4B pencil to give a metallic effect.

THE OUTSIDE

Firstly, the edges and those hidden areas were sprayed with hull red to prevent any bare patches. The whole vehicle was then sprayed with panzer grey. After covering the whole vehicle with this base colour, the tracks, tools and gun barrel were painted separately with flat black and gun metal. With these colours in place, the vehicle was now ready to receive its DAK colour scheme.

Before applying the yellow

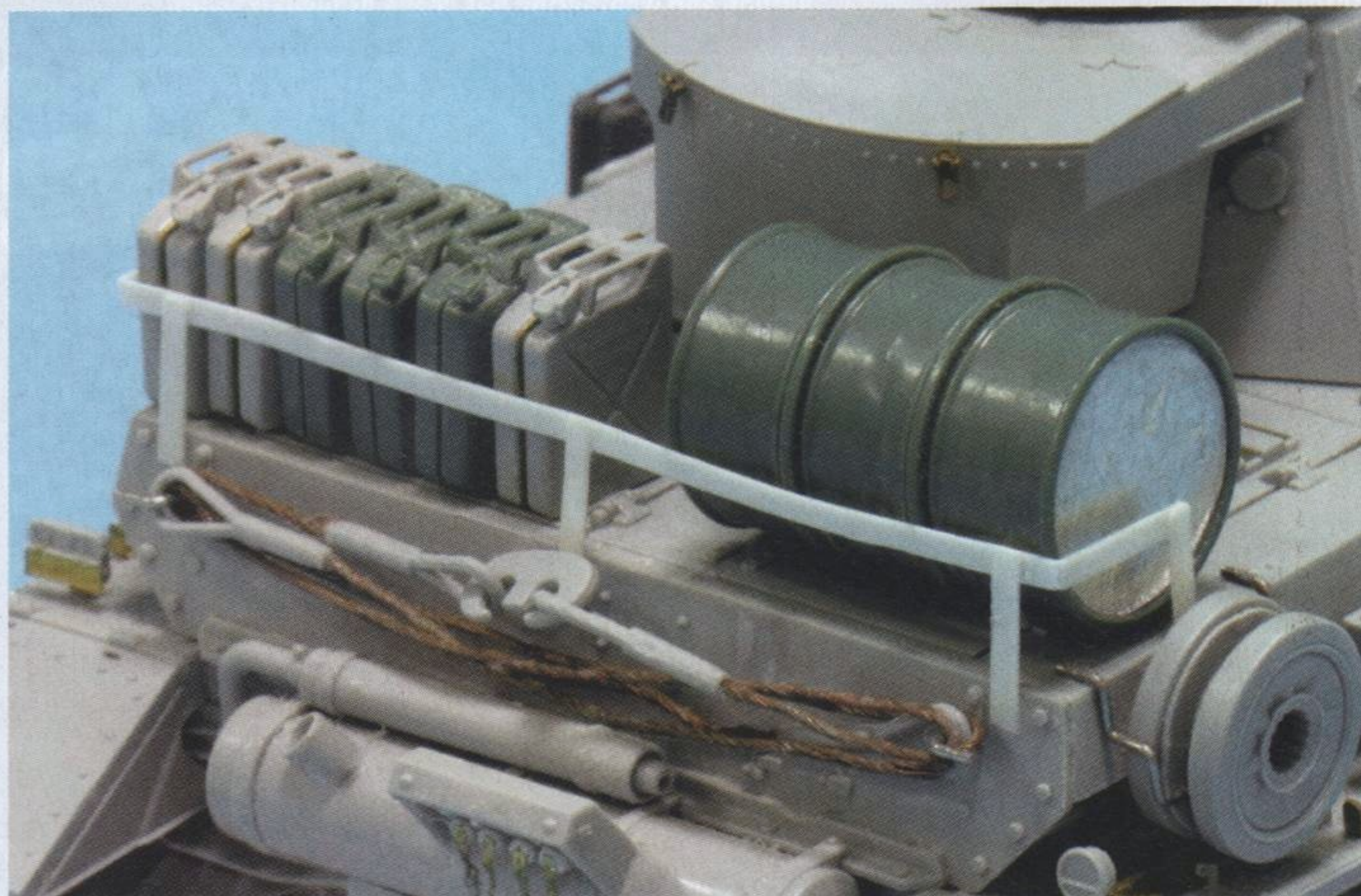
camouflage, the decals are applied. I find those from Bison to be of superb quality (thanks to the Editor for sending them to me). Simply apply them on the surface with a decal setting solution and they will conform perfectly to the model's surface.

In order to model the heavily weathered yellow, you will require a large quantity of cotton buds, a jar of Vaseline and some facial tissues. Firstly the numbers and markings are covered with Blu-Tac, then, the areas of most wear around crew access points etc. receive an application of Vaseline with a cotton bud in an irregular manner by tapping on the surface lightly so there is not an excessive amount applied. Working one area at a time is advisable. Once done, the surface is sprayed with a desert colour (desert yellow, dark yellow and buff in the ratio 6:1:3). When dry, facial tissues are used to remove the Vaseline and reveal the underlying grey colour. The major difference between this technique and that using a sponge is that it gives a much sharper and irregular edge as if really caused

by scratching. Also if you have a really close look at the edge the two paint layers are visible.

As I mentioned, there are two different painting techniques for weathering. That just covered is the technique to replicate the paint being scratched away, what I wanted to do next was to simulate paint that has faded away due to exposure to the elements. To do this, I washed the surface with

a saturated salt-water solution and left it to dry completely. This was followed by an over spray of yellow before placing the model under a running tap and when I gently brushed then the surface with an old toothbrush. The paint over the salt particles is easily removed. I have found the combination of these two techniques really gives the heavy weathered look I was after. ▶



The jerry can rack has been scratchbuilt using plastic card strip. Note the metal foil end to the oil drum, this is perfect for replicating a distressed and dented finish.



With the use of weathering pigments and various painting techniques, the author has created a scruffy weather beaten vehicle that has seen its share of action in the harsh North African desert campaign.



The author's technique of base coating the exhaust in matt black before dry brushing a combination of Mig Productions standard rust, Tamiya black and smoke looks very effective.



Dragon supplies a partial turret interior and for most should prove more than adequate when viewed through the open turret hatches. Careful painting and weathering has really brought it to life.



The same weathering techniques have been used on the oil drum as on the rest of the vehicle. This is an important aspect often over looked. Some fantastic models have been spoilt by hurriedly painted stowage and accessories, which look like an afterthought.

◀ **DETAIL PAINTING AND WEATHERING**

All that remains now is fine tuning and touching up. Firstly, I used Winsor and Newton artists' oil paint and gave a light wash around all of the details' edges. Those well-worn areas received further dry brushing with burnt sienna and burnt umber to achieve a light rust effect.

For the exhaust pipe, I wanted to replicate the burnt metal effect. To achieve this, I base coated it with flat black and then applied Mig Productions standard rust pigment mixed with Tamiya Black and Smoke using a dry brush technique. The acrylic smoke gives a semi-gloss effect

and hence a metallic look and feel. For the gun muzzle, I mixed up black and a very small amount of Mig's standard rust and brushed it on the barrel. At the breech end, I used a Gunze super metal colour to represent the recoil section.

Once all this was completed, I started to apply dust and dirt to the vehicle. Wartime pictures show that Panzers in the desert accumulated heavy layers of dust. To start with I applied a wash of Tamiya Buff and water (4:1) to simulate fine dust that has collected around details. The key to this is to flood the edges and around raised areas such as the cupola. Then, to give an irregular



pattern on the horizontal surfaces, I used a moist tissue to absorb the excess solution before it dried. This procedure was repeated with different tones of earth and tan until the desired effect was achieved.

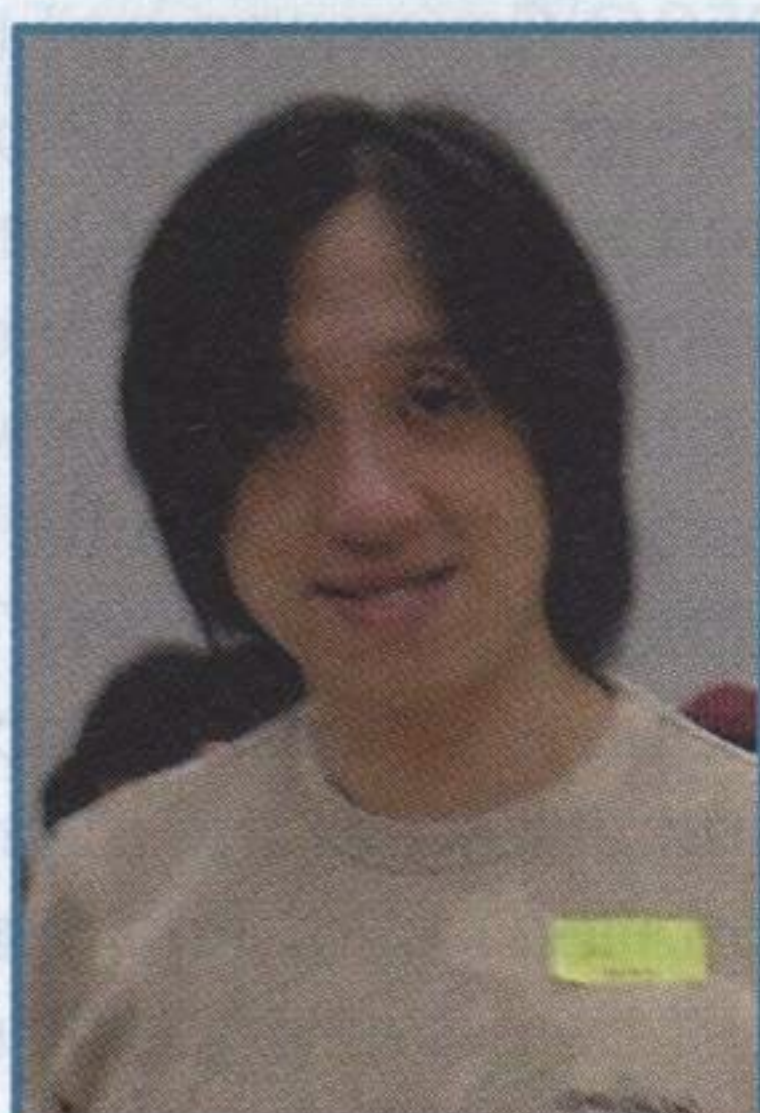
TRACK PAINTING

The tracks were base coated with flat black acrylic and then oil washes of burnt sienna were applied. I recommend using an earth tone solution (earth with water 5:1) for the base wash and when dry, cover it with the dust tone solution (buff with water 4:1) to represent the heavy dust and dirt on the tracks.

OIL STAINS AND FINAL DETAILING PAINTING

I dry brush Gunze super metal paint on the sprocket teeth, the edges of the hull and the turret armour plates to replicate bare metal. Oil and lubricant deposits

were replicated by mixing Winsor and Newton Acrylic gloss vanish with acrylic smoke and some black pigment. This was applied to lubrication points, fuelling points and the engine deck with a fine paint brush. ■



MEET THE AUTHOR

Nice to meet you all, I am Alex from Hong Kong. Before coming back to the model world 4 years ago, I had been away from it for 10 years. Except being an AFV modeler, I am also keen on collecting materials for the WW2 history. Thanks John for giving me chance to feature my work here. ■

Modelspec

1:35 Dragon 6265 German Pz.Kpfw.IV Ausf.D
Kit No.6265

Materials

Injection moulded grey coloured styrene.

Paints used

Tamiya Acrylics: XF-1 Flat Black, XF-2 Flat White, XF-6 Orange, XF-7 Flat Red, XF-9 Hull Red, XF-57 Buff, XF-59 Desert Yellow, XF-60 Dark Yellow, XF-63 German Grey, XF-64 Red Brown.
Gunze Super Metallic: SM04.
Winsor & Newton: Oil Paints.

Accessories used

Bison decals for Panzer IV Ausf. D/E/F/F2/G N/Africa.

References used:

Ground Power May 2003
Sturm&Drang PzKfw IV Special Issue
Panzer IV and its variants (Spielberger German Armour & Military Vehicles, Vol. 4)

- ☒ Highly detailed.
- ☒ Not easy for the beginner.

Available from

All good model shops.

Rating ●●●●●●○○





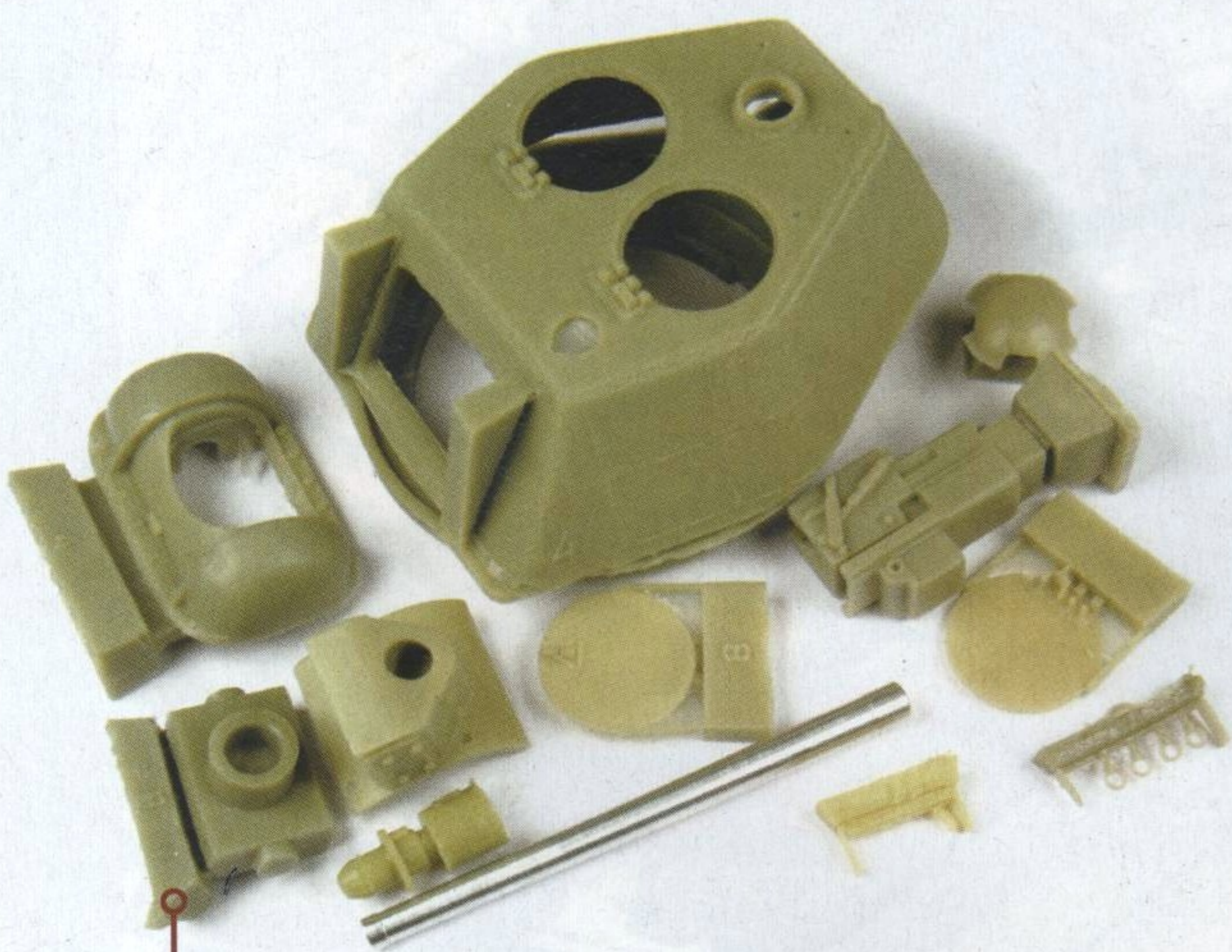
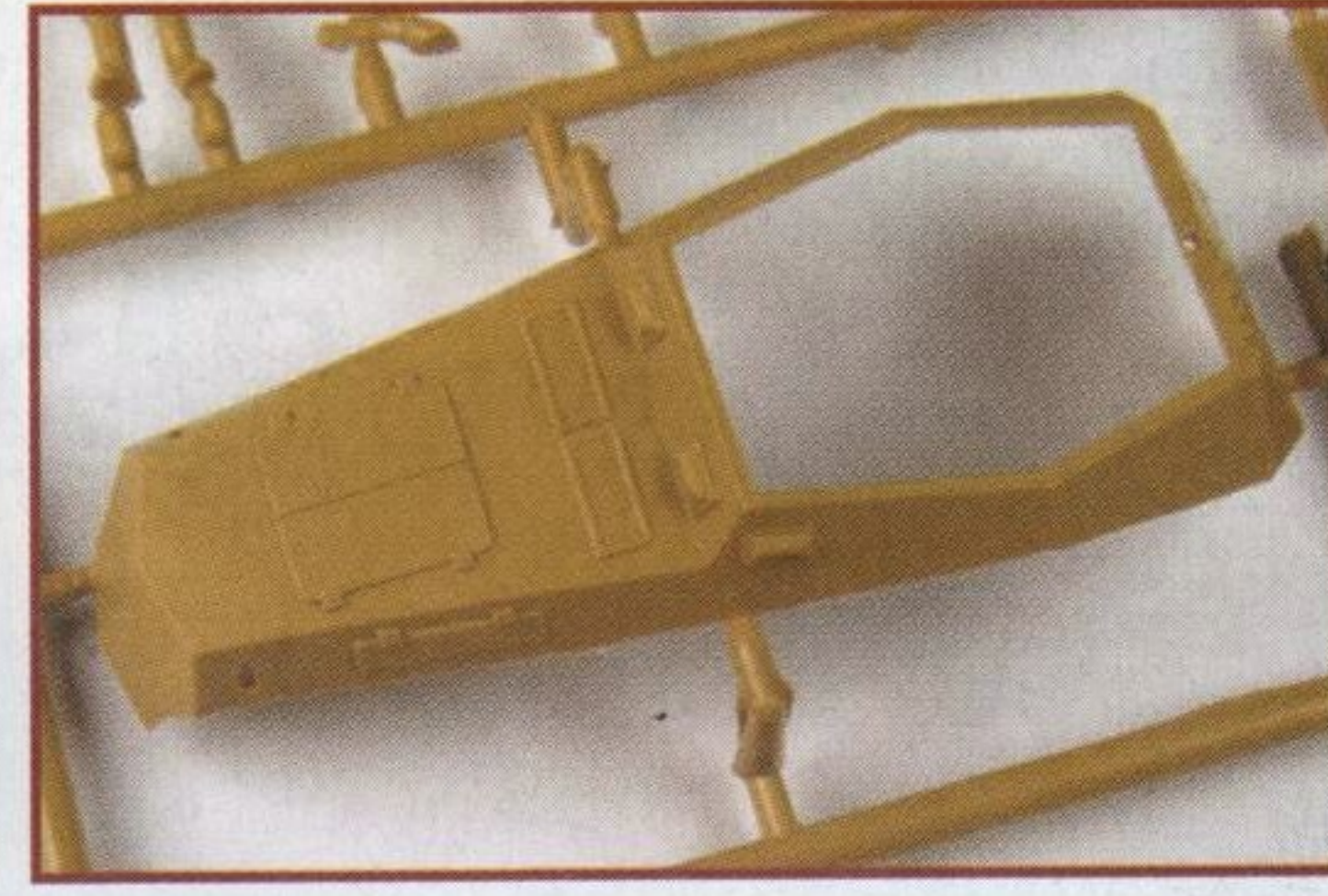
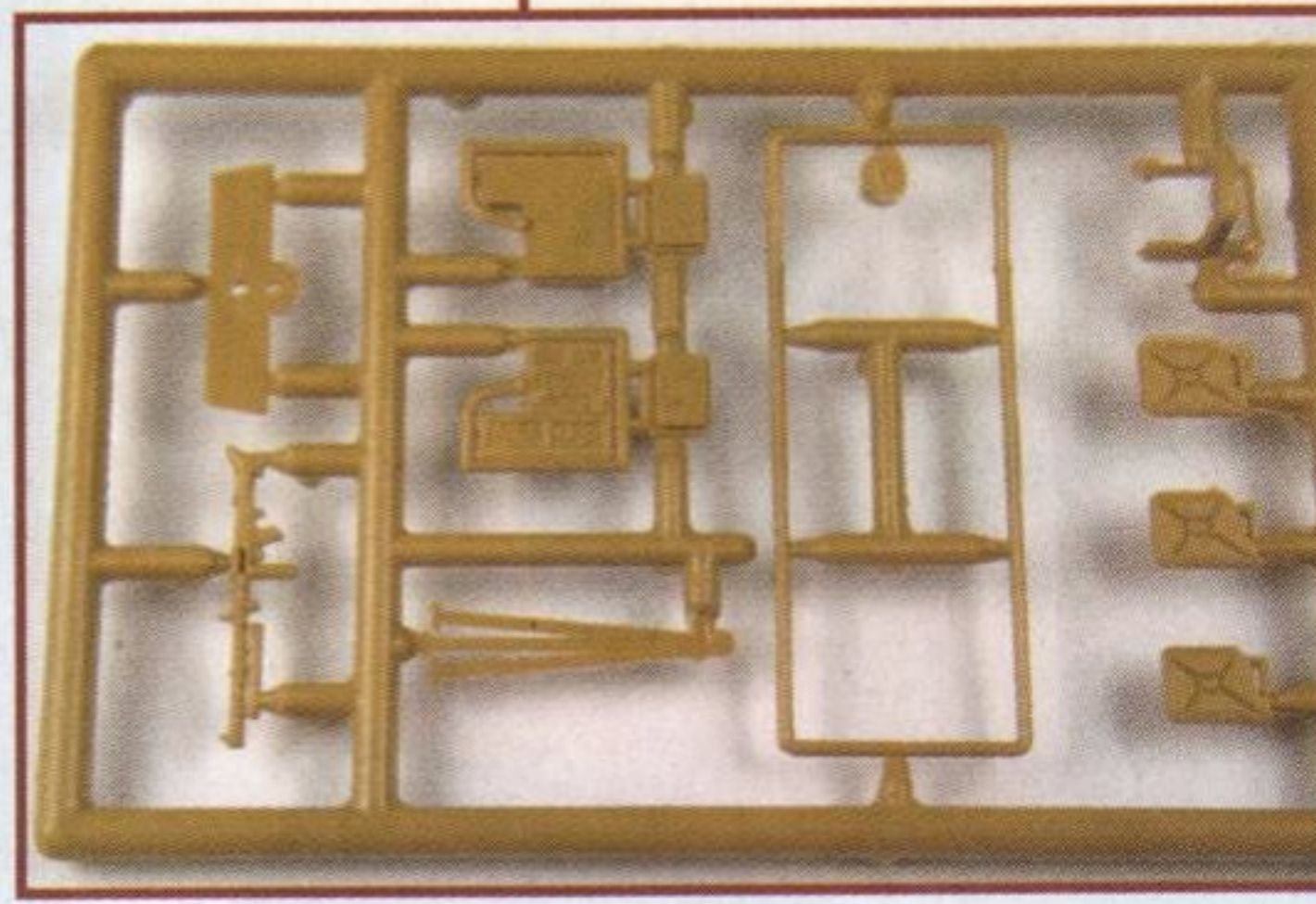
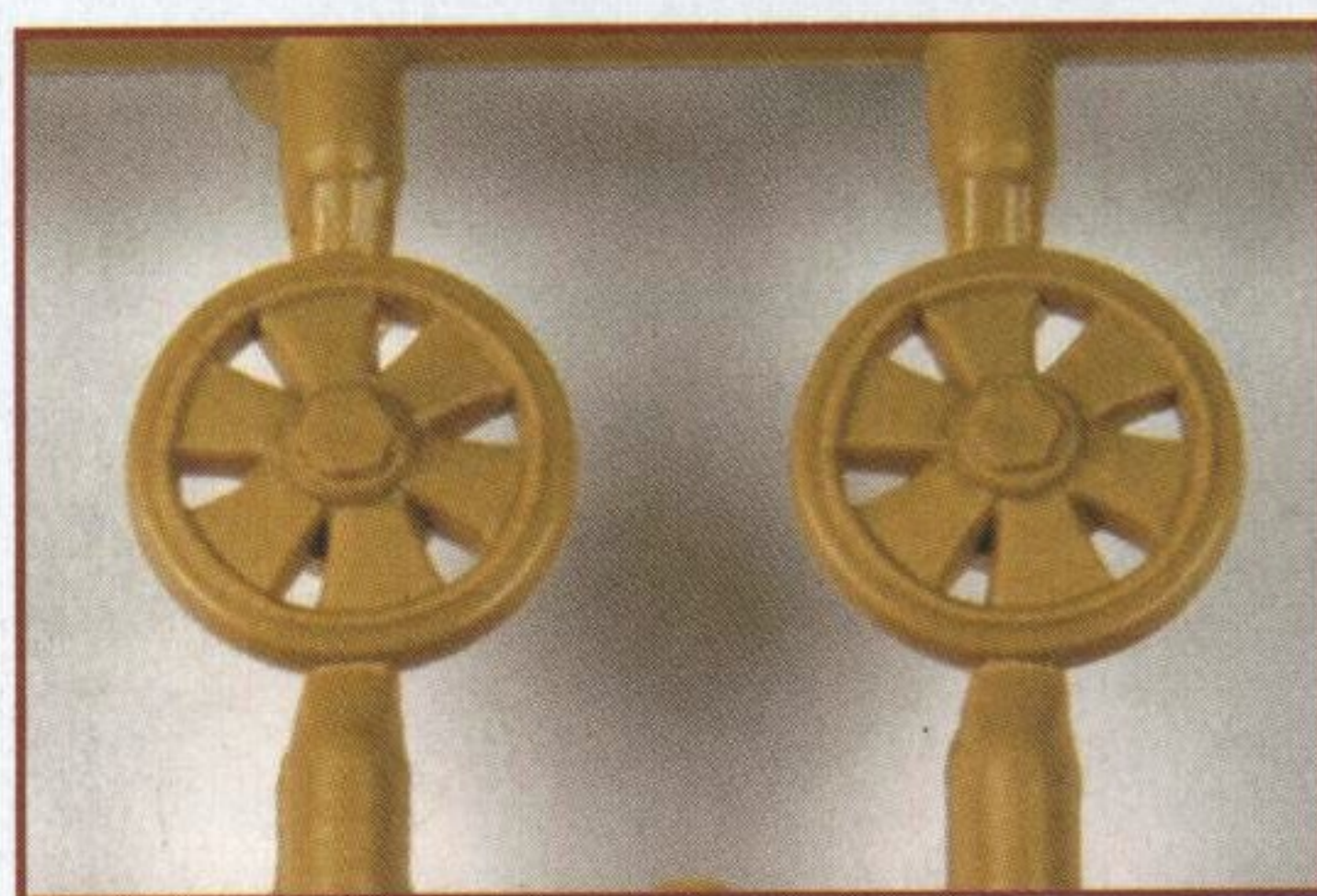
ITALERI

**1:72 SD.KFZ 250/3
ITEM NO 7034**

Another old Esci kit from Italeri, this time the Sd.Kfz 250/3 Command half track. The kit comprises 77 parts and a set of rubber band tracks. This is a nicely detailed kit but is not as crisply moulded as the M13/40 that I reviewed earlier as there is a bit of flash present and some sink marks although these won't be visible on the finished model. The kit includes separately moulded tools, three nicely moulded figures and although the interior is pretty sparse it does include a nicely detailed radio. Again as in the M13/40 the tracks are awful and will be extremely difficult to fit and glue as they are so inflexible, this is a real shame as this could be a good kit. Four marking options are included, one of which is Rommel's personal mount during the North African campaign. The Sd.Kfz 250 series of half tracks is not very well represented in Braille Scale so its is unfortunate that this kit has such poor tracks.

Available from all good model shops

7/10 for the kit - 4/10 for the tracks - Jeff Adam



MINIARM

**1:35 T-34 HEXAGONAL TURRET 1942
ITEM NO.B35022**

Designed for the Dragon T-34 76mm armed version comes this lovely cast turret. The set contains a cleanly cast resin turret with all the external fittings including delicate ring loops an internal breech block and a turned metal barrel. The main turret has a subtle cast texture and fine weld seams. This is a lovely set and will provide a different variant of the T-34 for your collection. Available from www.friendshipmodels.com
10/10 - Graeme Carruthers



RMG RESIN MODELS

1:35 DIORAMA ACCESSORIES

A new company brought to our attention via our sister magazine TMMI. We have received some very nice samples of their resin diorama products. All have been cleanly cast and are very nicely detailed, the way the concrete has been replicated is superb, best of all for me is the scale barbed wire, which has been made in the same way the real stuff is, i.e. With ultra-fine twisted wire and tiny wound barbs and has to be seen to be believed. This wire, in my opinion, sets the new standard for anyone wanting the most realistic barbed wire for their latest work.

RM001 CONCRETE TELEGRAPH POST MODERN

RM002 CONCRETE TELEGRAPH POST WWII

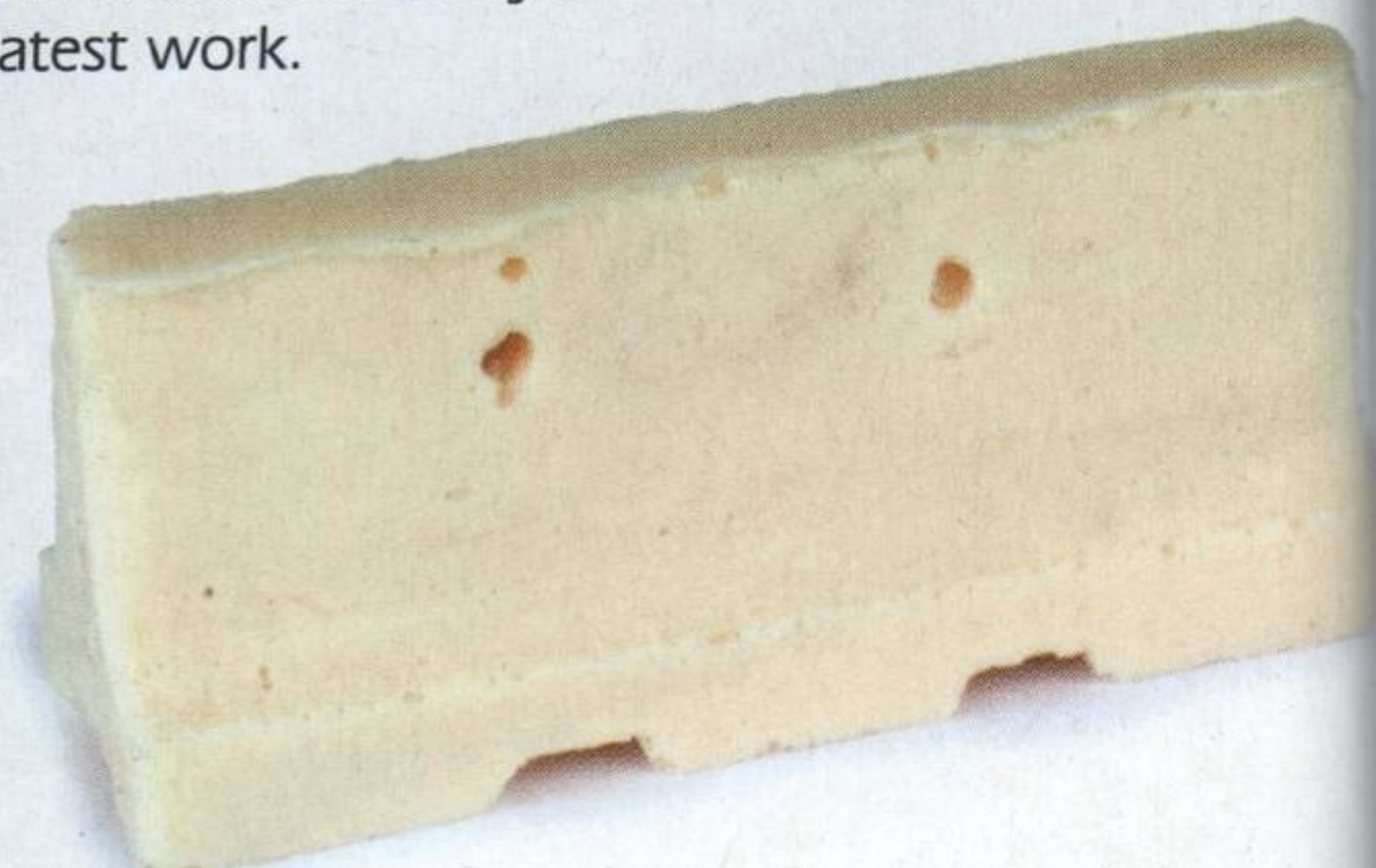
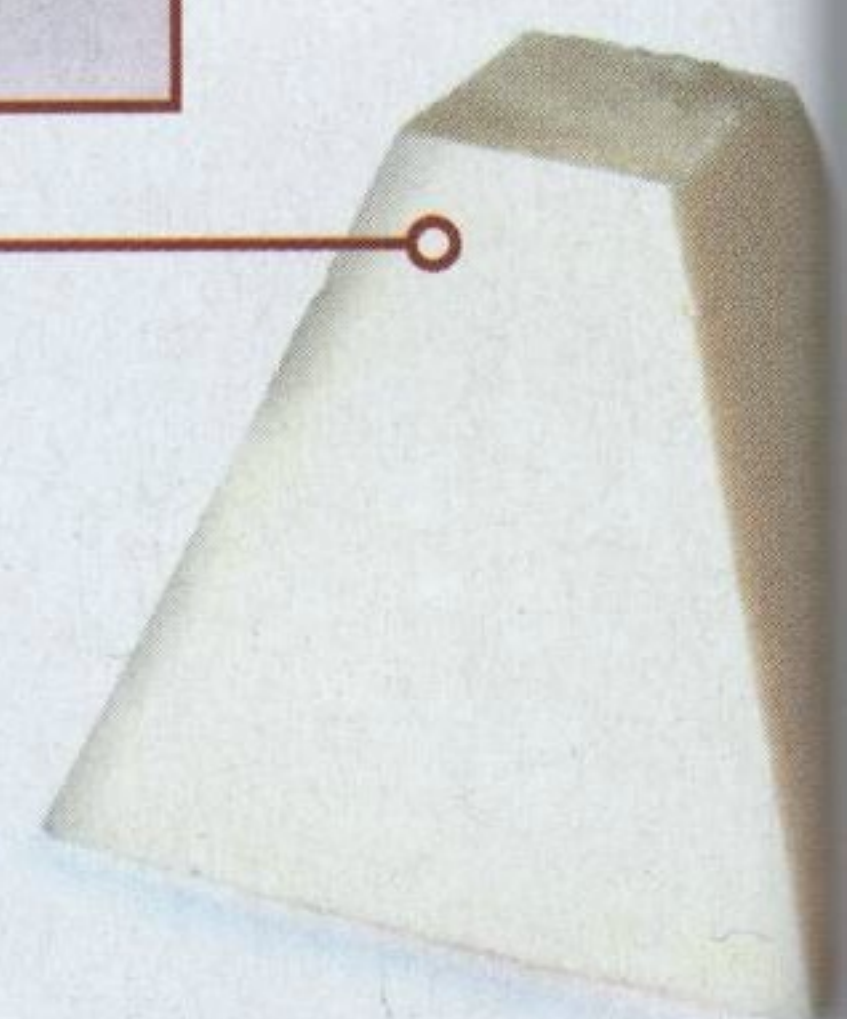
RM003 CONCRETE BARRIER (JERSEY TYPE)

RM004 ANTI-TANK CONCRETE BARRIER

RM013 BARBED WIRE

Available from www.rmg-resinmodels.com

9.5/10 - The Editor





ABER

ETCHED BRASS DETAIL SETS

Here are the latest sets to arrive from Aber:

1:48

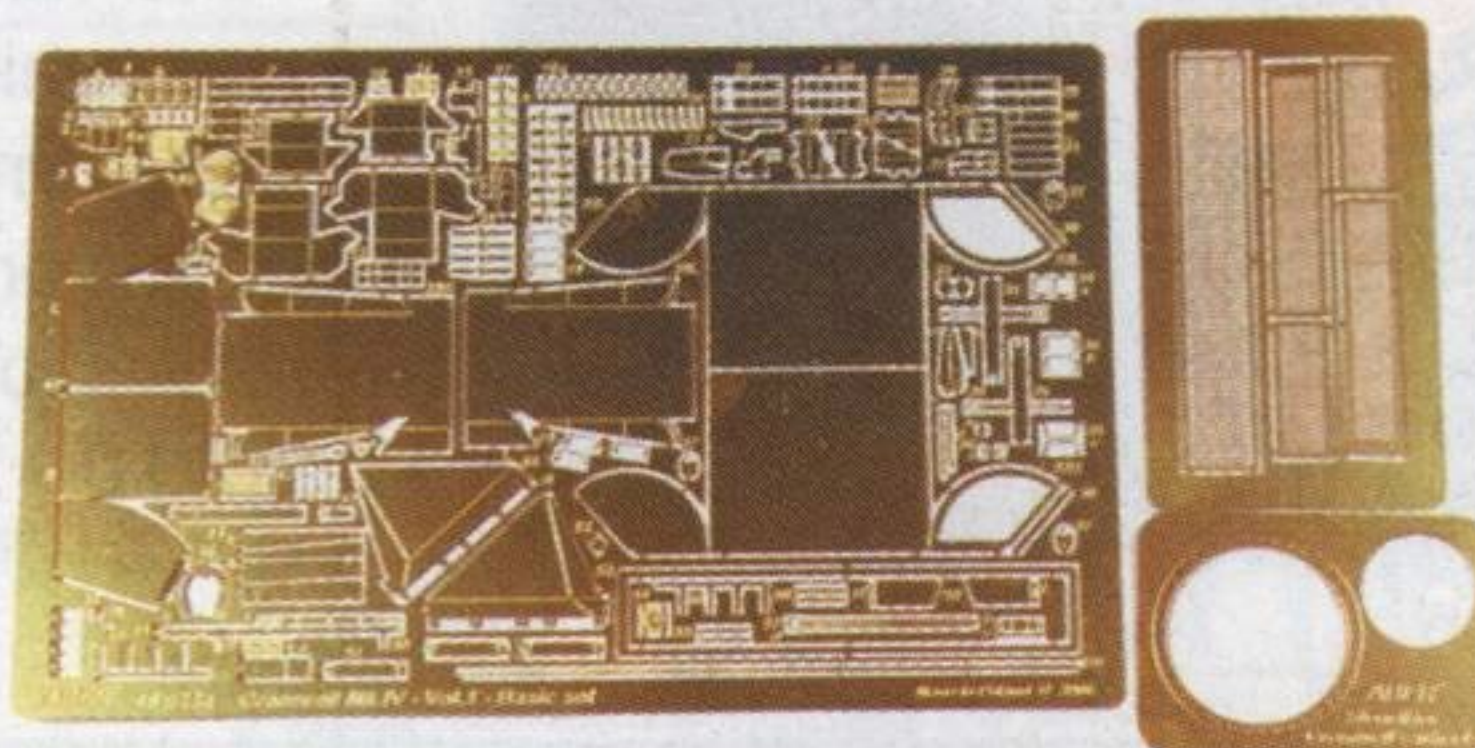
- 48 A13 DEEP WADING TRUNKS FOR CROMWELL AND CENTAUR
- 48 022 DETAIL SET FOR TAMIYA M10
- 48 023 VOL.1 BASIC SET FOR TAMIYA CROMWELL
- 48 024 VOL.2 FENDERS FOR TAMIYA CROMWELL MK.IV
- 48 025 VOL.3 SIDE STOWAGE BOXES FOR TAMIYA CROMWELL MK.IV

1:35

- 35 206 SD.KFZ.251/1D VOL. 4 REAR DOORS AND VISION PORTS TO FIT AFV CLUB KIT
- 35 209 SD.KFZ.251/1D VOL.7 BACK SEATS AND BOXES TO FIT AFV CLUB KIT
- 35 210 SD.KFZ.251/1D VOL.8 UPPER ARMOUR-LATE TO FIT AFV CLUB KIT
- 35 212 PZ.KPFW. 754 (R) KV-2 VOL.1 BASIC SET FOR TRUMPETER KIT
- 35 213 CHAR B1 BIS VERSION WITH NARROW FENDERS
- 35 L-56 GERMAN 7.5CM KWK 42 L70 GUN BARREL WITH MUZZLE BRAKE FOR PANTHER G LATE TO FIT DRAGON KIT

Available from www.historex-agents.com

9.5/10 - The Editor



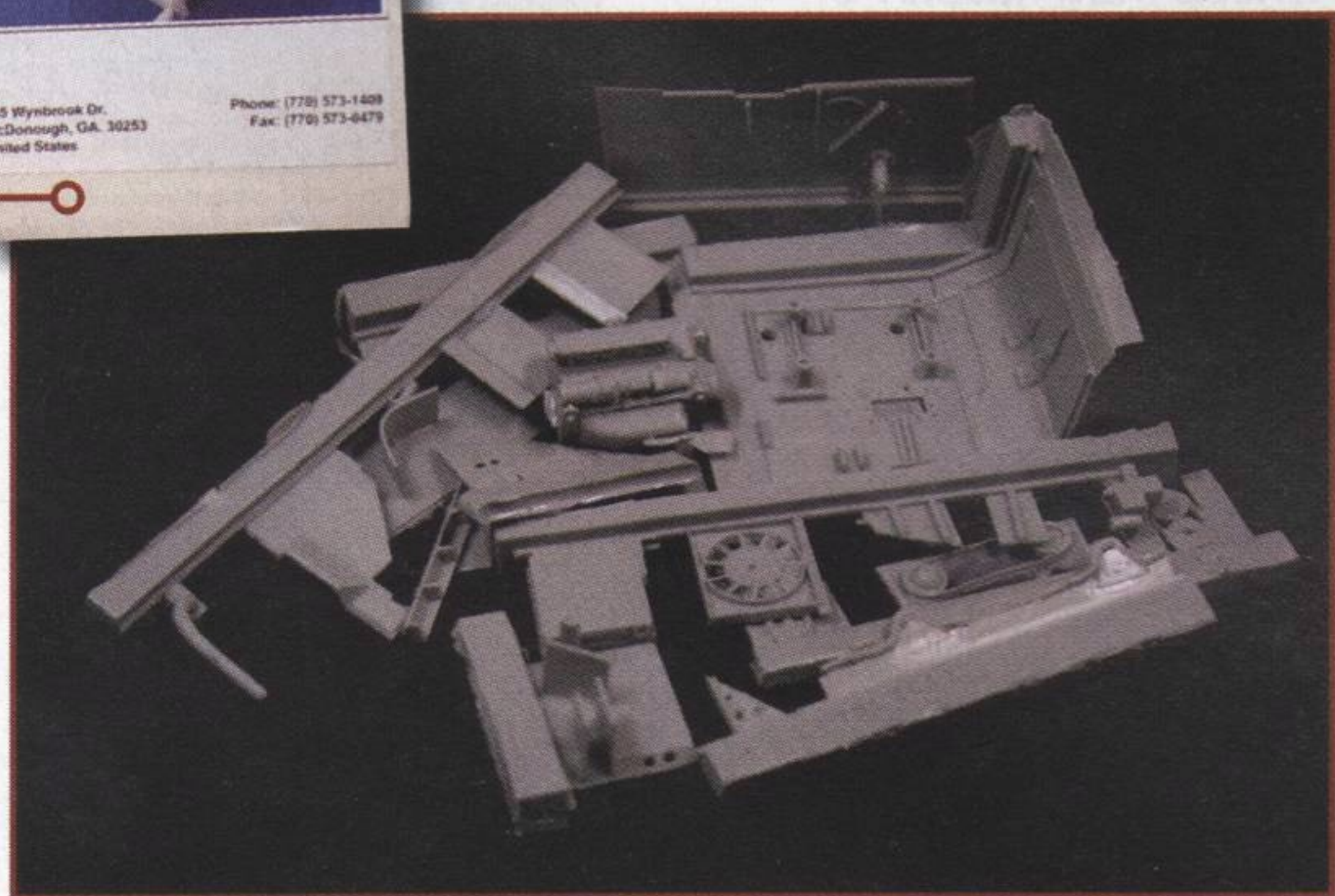
TANK WORKSHOP

1:35 MARDER II ENGINE COMPARTMENT (DRAGON KIT) ITEM NO.TWS 2013

Dragon's new Marder II kit is a lovely kit on its own and will produce a handsome model. With the addition of this engine set your model can be taken to a new level. Opening the stout box presents 22 cleanly cast pieces of soapy grey resin. The instructions contain both annotated colour photos and well laid out text and should provide no surprises for modellers. I was surprised however by the inclusion of detailed instructions to so how to make guards for the engine vent from plastic strip. If they made a lovely example and took photos to show us, then why didn't they just cast it, pop it in the box and save us the trouble? Another good product from Tank Workshop never the less. Highly recommended.

Available direct from www.Tankworkshop.com
Or from www.friendshipmodels.com in the UK.

9/10 - Graeme Carruthers



LEGEND PRODUCTIONS

1:35 COMET DETAILING SET ITEM NO.LF1137

This set is designed to only help correct some of the issues with the Bronco kit's turret. A new turret roof, cloth covered mantlet, better detailed periscopes and a cupola with detailed interior complete this small set. There are however a few issues with this set, the turret split hatch still contains the error of having right angled corners whereas they should be curved. The covered mantlet is fully also covered over the trunnions which I believe is a post war variant where as the WW2 variant left the trunnions uncovered.

A good enough set from Legend but the error of the hatch corners and the possible limited popularity of a post war mantlet may limit the sets use.

Good but needs some tweaking
Available from www.friendshipmodels.com

6.5/10 - Graeme Carruthers

Friendship Models

New Releases



Legend Productions 1/35th

LF1142: IDF M151A2 OREV (Late)
Conv. (For Tam/Acad M151A2).£16.99

LF1141: IDF M151A2 OREV Carrier
(Late) (For Tam/Acad M151A2).£14.99

LF1140: IDF M9 Dozer Blade For
Magach Series.....£14.99

Formations Products 1/35th

F072: M4 105mm Turret.....£24.99

F073: Late Sherman Vision Cupola. ..
.....£6.49

F074: HVSS/ M4 Suspension Detail
Set.....£9.99

F075: US Pattern Water Cans...£9.99

F076: Sherman Fender Set.....£7.99

F077: Update Set For Tamiya M4A3..
.....£34.99

F078 M4A3 Intermediate Production
Big Hatch Upper Hull.....£24.99

F079: M4 Conversion For DML
Sherman MkIII.....£11.99

F080: Early VVSS Suspension.£24.99

MiniArm1/35th

B35030: T-72B Conv.....£25.99

B35027: T-72BM Conv.....£23.99

B35020: T-64 Tracks.....£19.99

B35006: T-72 Tracks.....£19.99

UK P+P: ≤ £30..£3.00, £31-£75..£4.00
£76-£150...£6.00, Over £150 Post Free
International Postage @ cost, please con-
tact us directly in first instance.

Stockists Of:

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East Lothian
EH21 8HR

Tel: 0131 665 0866

Email: friendshipmodels@btinternet.com

Web: www.friendshipmodels.com

Ebay Shop:

<http://stores.ebay.co.uk/Friendship-Models>

Visitors to premises by appointment only.



Incoming



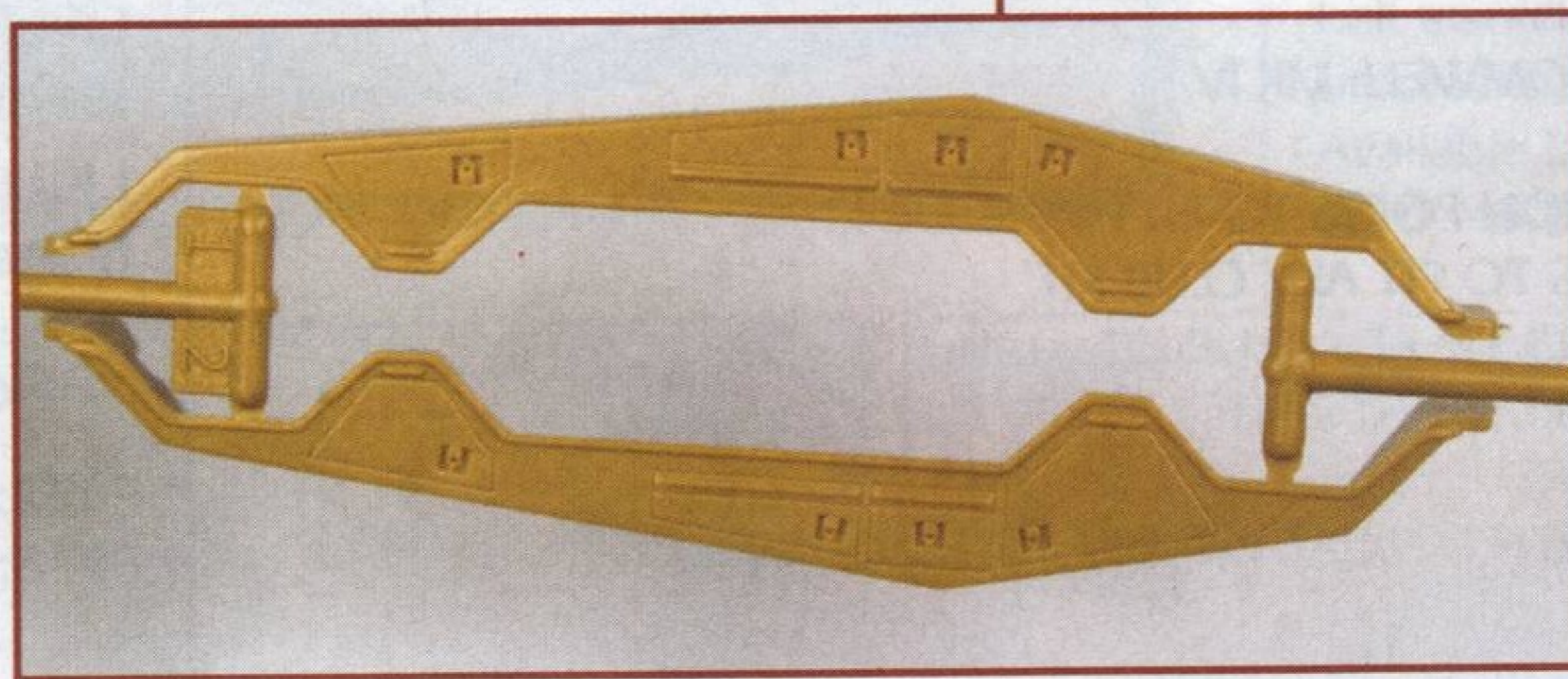
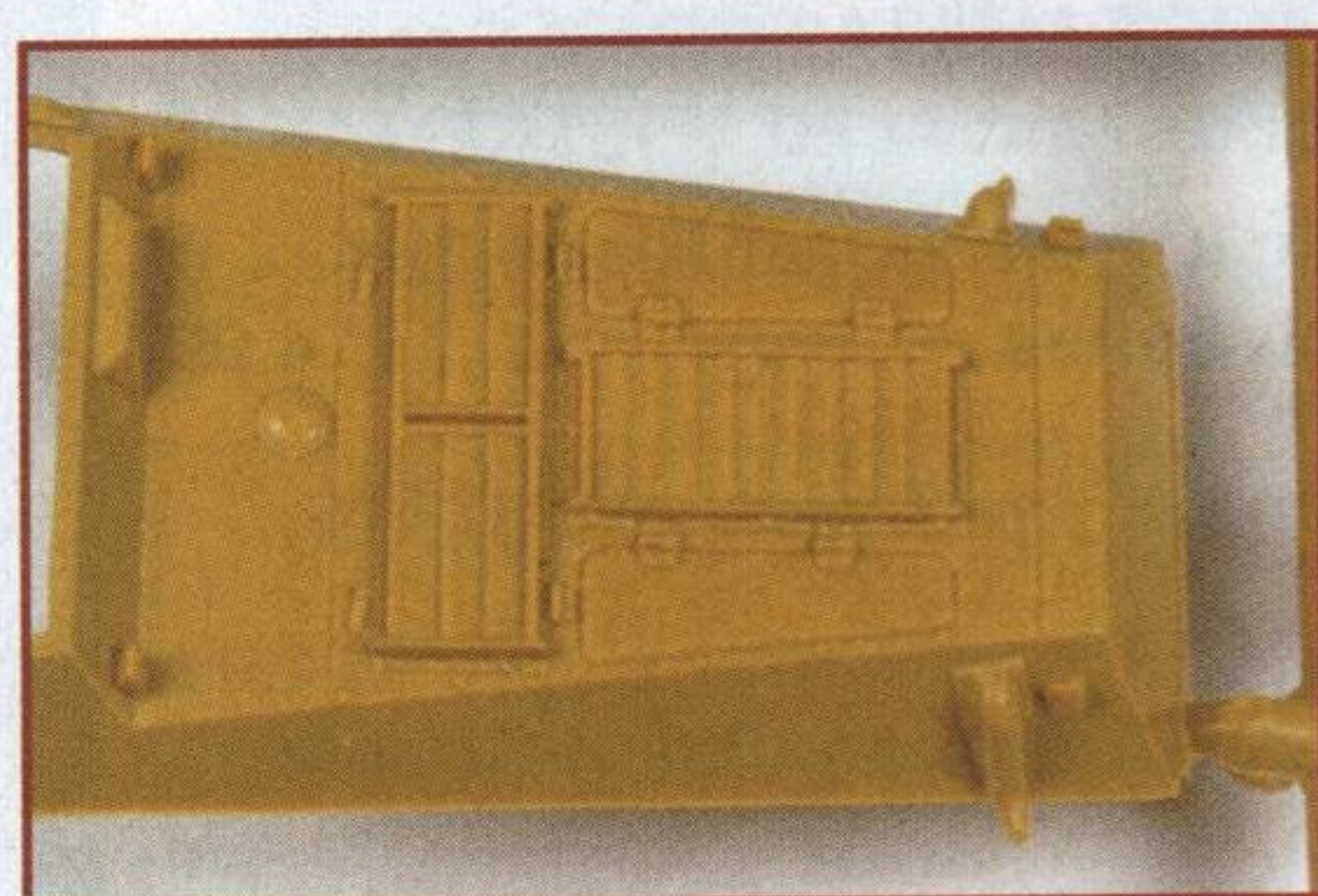
ITALERI

**1:72 SD.KFZ 234/3
ITEM NO 7037**

Italeri have interspersed their re-issues of the old Esci kit with some nice new kits of their own. One of the latest is the Sd.Kfz 234/3 which is based on their previous release of the 234/2 Puma Armoured Car. The kit comprises 66 parts on one sprue, the parts are crisply moulded and well detailed including separate jerry cans, fire extinguishers and a nicely done MG42. The short nosed 75mm gun is also well done but there is scope for extra detailing if you wish. As this kit is aimed at the wargamer there is a simplified build option, which leaves off a lot of the separate details and has a simplified axle system. The interior of this kit is also quite sparse, so again plenty of scope for extra detailing. There are 4 marking options, all from 1944 two camouflaged examples from the 116th and 21st Panzer Division and two in overall dunkelgelb from unknown units.

Available from All good model shops

7/10 - Jeff Adams



LEGEND PRODUCTIONS

**1:35 SHERMAN CRAB CONVERSION SET
ITEM NO. LF1139**

If you are looking for something cool to do with that M4A4 kit you have lying in the attic then look no further. The Crab was of course a British attempt to produce a tank that could clear a path through axis minefield in WW2. A revolving drum was attached to the front of the tank and the rotating chains detonated any mines ahead of the tank, hopefully only the easily replaced chains would be damaged by the mines explosion.

The Legend kit will produce an Mk1 Crab from a large and complex set of resin pieces. Also a sizeable etch sheet is provided along with the chain and balls to make the flails. Those who have made Legends Merkava turrets will know the drill. Unusually the slanted boxes designed to drop lanes markers are not provided but even though they weren't seen on all Crabs it would have been nice to have been given the option.

Photos of the Crab in action show lots of variation on stowage and chain type and combine that with all the dirt and dust thrown up then you can do a lot with a Crab.

This is not a kit for beginners in resin conversions but with patience it should result in an outstanding looking Sherman variant.

Available from www.friendshipmodels.com

9/10 - Graeme Carruthers



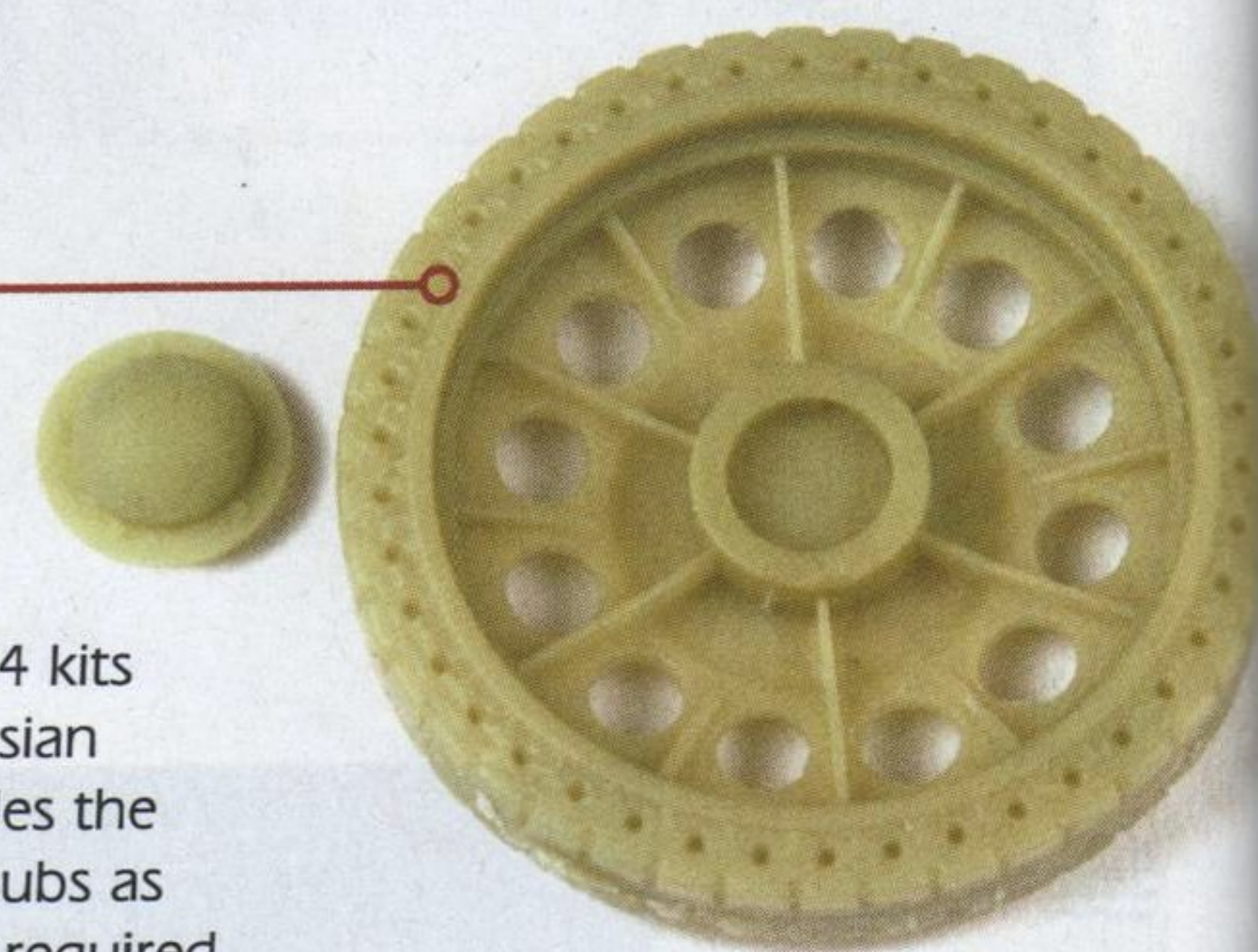
MINIARM

**1:35 T-34 SPIDER WEB WHEELS
WITH PERFORATED TIRES
ITEM NO.B35014**

The excellent series of Dragon T-34 kits get a new set of wheels from Russian company Miniarm. The set provides the beautifully cast wheels with the hubs as separate items. Minor clean-up is required in the circular spokes but apart from that this set will change the appearance of your next T-34.

Available from www.friendshipmodels.com

9/10 - Graeme Carruthers



CMK

**1:48 PZ.III J LATE CONVERSION SET FOR TAMIYA KIT
ITEM NO. 8018**

Designed for the Tamiya kit, this neat little conversion set features a new turret, mantlet, glacis plate and driver's visor. All the parts are crisply cast in a light grey resin, which really helps highlight the level of detail incorporated into the castings. The instructions are very clear and easy to follow, making this the perfect starter set for anyone wanting to try their hand at converting one of Tamiya's excellent 1:48 range of kits.

Available from www.hannants.co.uk

9.5/10 - The Editor



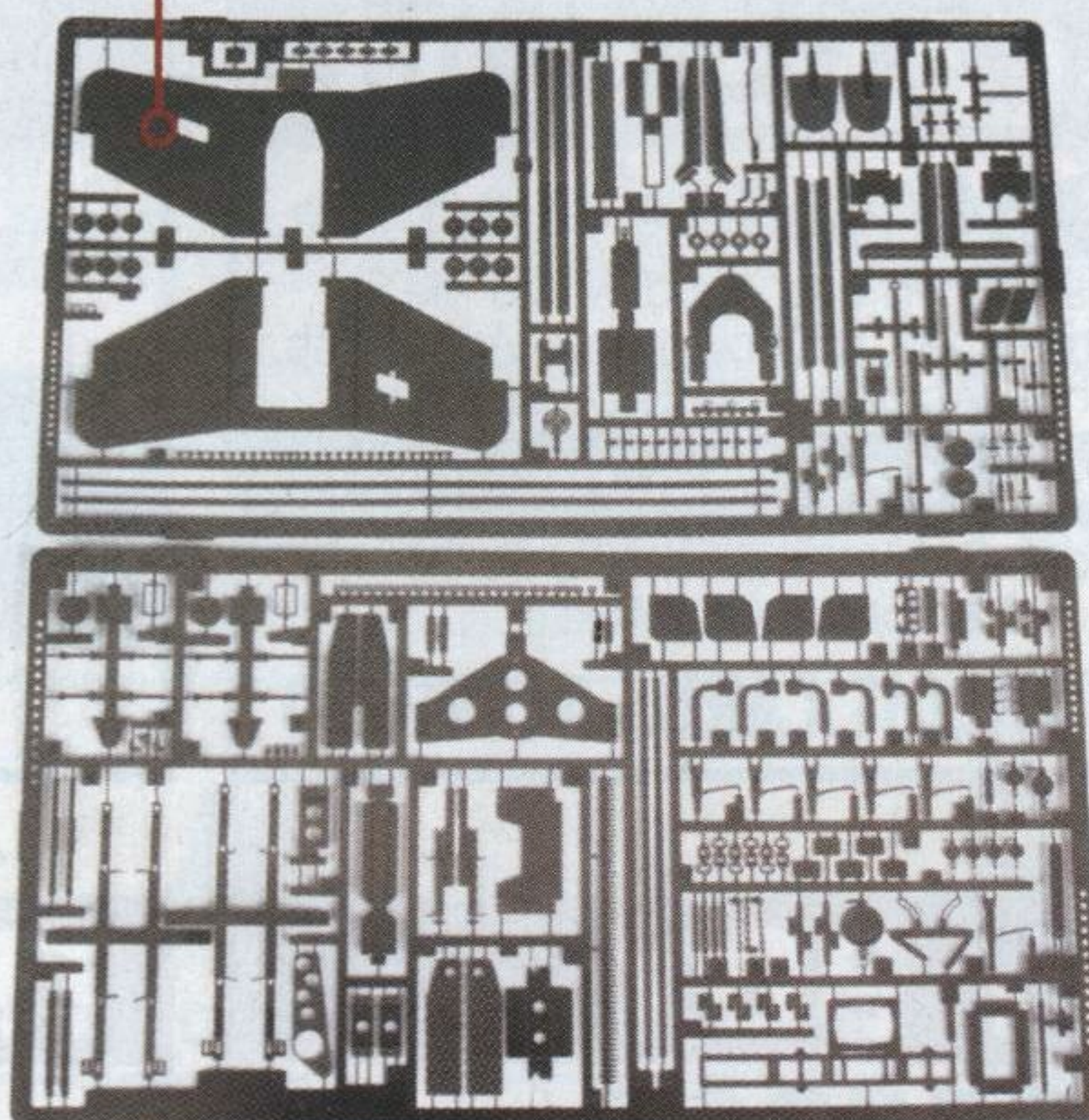
EDUARD

ETCHED BRASS DETAIL SETS

We have just received some of the latest etched brass set from those incredibly productive guys at Eduard. It's good to see that allied and modern vehicles are being catered for, including no less than four sets for AFV Club's long awaited Australian Centurion Mk5/1. SD.KFZ.234/4 DETAIL SET FOR DRAGON 6221 KIT 35910 PZ.38 (T) AUSF.E/F INTERIOR FOR TRISTAR KIT 35 914 PZ.38 (T) AUSF.E/F EXTERIOR FOR TRISTAR KIT 35 915 A-34 COMET DETAIL SET FOR THE BRONCO KIT 35 919 A-34 COMET TOOL BOXES FOR THE BRONCO KIT 35 945 CENTURION MK 5/1 AUSTRALIAN FOR AFV CLUB KIT 35 925 CENTURION MK 5 TOOL BOXES FOR AFV CLUB KIT 35932 CENTURION MK5 GRILLES 35 942 CENTURION AMMO BOXES 35 943

Available from Isamodels.co.uk

9.5/10 - The Editor



MINIARM

1:35 T-72 TRACK SET ITEM NO. B35006

If you are looking for a set of replacement tracks for either your Tamiya or Trumpeter kit then this set of beautifully cast resin track set should be for you. They clip together and should quickly give you the detailed tracks you crave.

Available from www.friendshipmodels.com
9/10 - Graeme Carruthers



LEGEND PRODUCTIONS

1:35 M39 CONVERSION SET ITEM NO.LF1138

It's AFV Club's M18 Hellcat's time to get the Legend treatment. Only the lower hull, suspension units and some small fittings remain from the donor kit with the a new upper hull and all the interior fittings being provided in resin and a large etched sheet. The kit is cleanly cast with lovely treadplate detail in the hull sides.

These tracked support vehicles arrived in Europe in small numbers in Spring 1945 and also went on to serve in the Korean war in the early 1950s and will provide a different looking vehicle to place on your next diorama.

Highly recommended

Available from www.friendshipmodels.com

8.5/10 - Graeme Carruthers



ENYGMAG GRAPHICS

1:35 DIORAMA ACCESSORIES (POSTERS)

New to us are these very nice poster sets from Enigma. Each pack contains two A5 sheets jammed full of beautifully printed period posters.

I love stuff like this as they are great for adding interest to an empty corner of a diorama or blank wall. I think products as good as this offer superb value for money and will last for ages. For the rest of the range please check out the Enigma web site

ITALIAN POLITICAL AND ADVERTISING SHEET 7

EUROPEAN ADVERTISING POSTERS SHEET 5

GERMAN POSTERS WWII SHEET 8

EUROPEAN POSTERS 1930/40S SHEET 6

Available from www.enymag.com

10/10 - The Editor

In Brief...

Plus Models

Always at the forefront of imaginative accessories, Plus Models have announced a very nice set of wooden barrels and loudspeakers - I can picture Odd Ball's Sherman in the film Kelly's Heroes as I write! (Ed). Lastly a Fordson WOT-III Mobile workshop truck will be joining the ranks of their ever growing range of unusual and interesting full resin 1:35 kits.



• PM35199 - Fordson WOT-III mobile workshop (complete kit)



• PM35204 - Wooden barrels



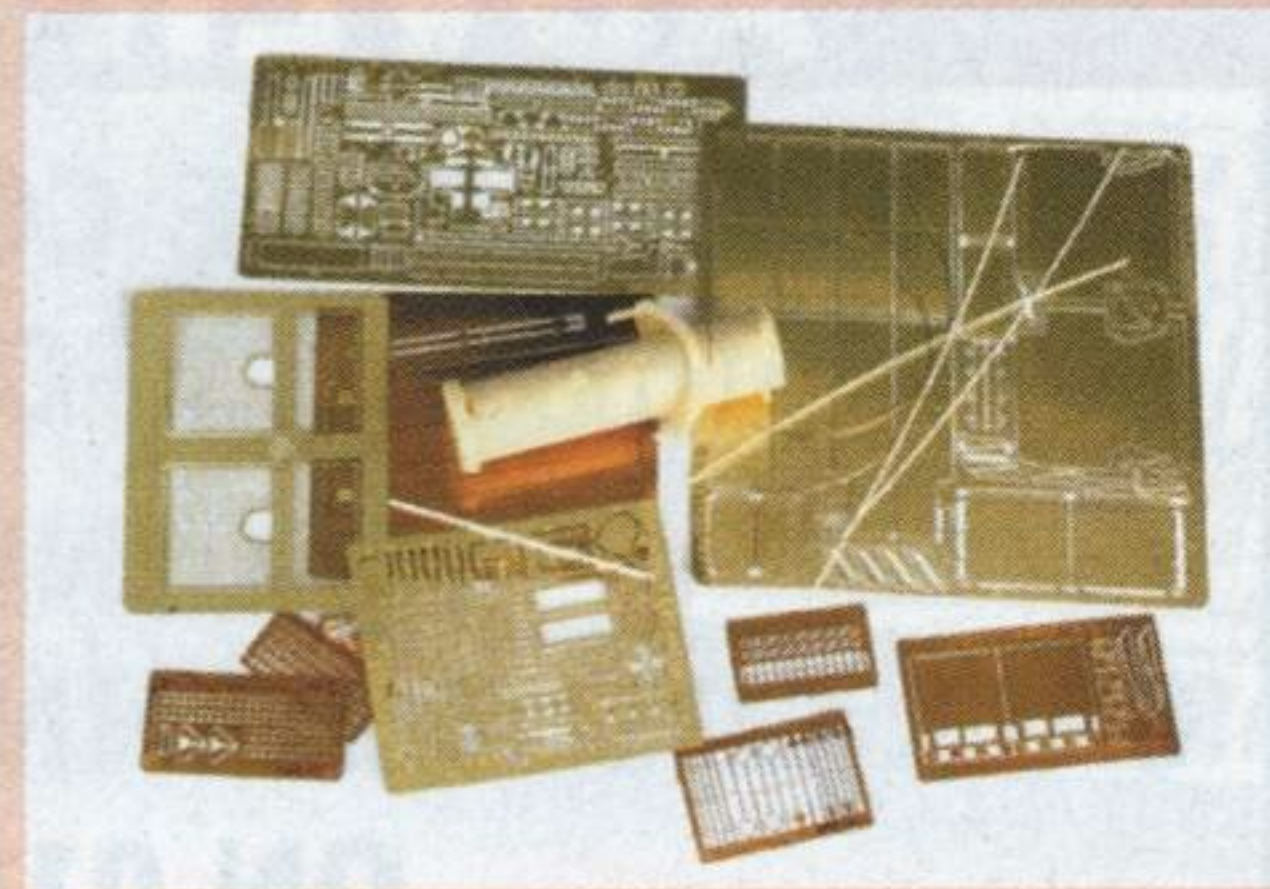
• PM35223 - Loudspeakers



VOYAGER

• PE35136 - 1:35 UP-DATE SET FOR AFV CLUB STURMTIGER
Everything you could possibly need to superdetail AFV Club's recent release of the Sturmtiger.

The set contains no less than 10 etched brass frets, an all new resin launcher assembly, turned brass pistol ports and a selection of plastic rod and fine wire.



Next Issue

On sale May 3rd 2007



Achzarit

Alex Clark offers a comprehensive guide to painting and weathering an IDF Achzarit from the Cromwell Models' Combat 72 range.



Mucky M4

We welcome Andrew Dextras to MMI with his superbly weathered Tamiya 1:48 scale Sherman.

FOR YOUR SAFETY



Don't forget, when using solvents such as glues, paints, thinners and cleaning agents, always ventilate your work area thoroughly and wear a face mask.

When using power tools, side cutters or any tool that can suddenly break or create high-speed airborne particles, wear approved eye protectors with hard, clear lenses. Please always model in safety!



Gulf Graffiti

Ivan Cocker describes how he built this imaginative 1991 Gulf War diorama.

...and much more!

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Due to many influencing factors, we cannot guarantee the appearance of the above projects, but we'll try our best!



The Last Post...

One of the models featured in issue 120 of TMMI (available as a back issue from www.tamiyamodelmagazine.com), that we hope helped inspire Paul.



ARE WE ELITIST?

Well, this is what Paul Chatfield has to say on the matter:

“I’ve just been reading The Last Post Article, in issue 12 of MMI. I really can’t believe anyone could find the magazine elitist. I would call it’s content aspirational, giving modellers standards to work toward. I feel it has a very inclusive style, that encourages modellers to try new things and shows them how to go about it.

I returned to modelling, around 3 years ago, after a long break. At that time I looked around, at various magazines, to see where the hobby was at after my long

break from it. I quickly settled on regularly reading your sister mag TMMI, the articles there by Marcus Nicholls and others (including MMI’s Editor) steered me towards military vehicle modelling. The set out and the way the articles never talked down to beginners and inexperienced modellers encouraged me to try techniques I saw there.

With the birth of MMI I found a dedicated military model mag made by the people whose work I had admired so much in TMMI. In the year since the mag launched

my modelling has started to move on. I started looking in on the Hyperscale web forums (www.hyperscale.com) and tentatively posted some of my work there. The talented and experienced modellers gave constant advice and encouragement and I learnt a lot. Last summer I was approached by Brett Green, the tireless editor of Hyperscale and Missing-Lynx (www.missing-lynx.com), with a view to using a post of mine as a review article on Missing-Lynx. Since that time, with encouragement and support from Brett, I have had

another 6 reviews and build articles published on Missing-Lynx, with a couple more on the way.

Almost all the improvements that I made in my modelling, to get it to the standard required by Brett, were due to articles I had read in TMMI and MMI. So I would totally refute the accusation of your magazine being elitist, it has all the information and encouragement the average modeller needs to move their skills forward. I would say just keep doing what you’re doing. ”

Paul Chatfield



PRODUCT OF THE MONTH

THE GOLD MEDAL GOES TO... 'SNJ'. AND SO DOES THE SILVER, BRONZE...

Although these metal finish paints and polishing powders from SnJ are well known amongst the aircraft modelling fraternity, they aren't so familiar with us armour modellers.

At first it would seem that there isn't much call for them in our portion of the hobby, but these are just superb at replicating various metal finishes.

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